

Mr Sadat expecting Israel to make extensive withdrawal

Optimism that Israel will make concessions during the Christmas Day meeting in Cairo between President Sadat and Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was being expressed in the Egyptian capital yesterday. Mr Sadat said he

expected Israel to make extensive withdrawals from the territories occupied after the 1967 war. Senior Egyptian officials said the Israelis would be bringing to Cairo a peace plan significantly more flexible than the proposals already outlined in public.

Begin visit may be prolonged

From Our Correspondent

Mr Sadat on Sunday, was likely to extend his stay until Monday. The two leaders were expected to hold a second round of talks after their joint press conference on Sunday evening.

Officials at Ismailia were today putting the final touches to the arrangements for Mr Begin's historic meeting with President Sadat, the second since the Egyptian leader's visit to Jerusalem last month.

Mr Begin and his wife are expected to land at Abu Sweir, about 9000 GMT on Sunday. The Israeli Prime Minister will be greeted by his Egyptian counterpart, Mr Mubarak.

Mr Mubarak, General Abdel-Ghany, the War Minister, Mr Burros Ghali, acting Foreign Minister, and other senior officials.

After landing at Abu Sweir, Mr Begin and Mr Salem will go by helicopter to President Sadat's Nakli residence in Ismailia where the talks will be held.

The Egyptian delegation will include Vice-President Hosni Mubarak, Mr Salem, General Gamal, Dr Ghali and Dr Essam Abdel Maguid, the head of the delegation at the Cairo peace talks.

With Mr Begin will be Mr Yigal Yadin, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Moshe Dayan, Foreign Minister, Mr Ezer Weizman, Defence Minister, Mr Hrieh Sharon, Agriculture Minister, Mr Elihu Ben Elissar, chief Israeli delegate at the Cairo talks.

On the eve of his talks with Mr Begin, President Sadat will preside over an emergency meeting of the National Security Council, the highest policy-making body.

Ismailia, Dec 23.—President Sadat said today he expects "for sure, the land occupied after 1967, and this is not a concession from the Israeli side at all," he told journalists. "It is our land."

Mr Begin is bringing a peace plan significantly more flexible than proposals he has outlined in public. These call only for a withdrawal on the West Bank and Gaza, where Mr Sadat demands that a sovereign Palestinian state be set up.

Asked if the summit might fail Mr Sadat replied: "Maybe. Why not? Maybe because we shall be very candid, and we shall be putting everything on the table, at least from my side."—AP

Our Berlin Correspondent writes: Egypt can expect an increase in capital aid when Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, goes to Cairo next Tuesday. The official Bonn spokesman did not deny reports that the annual rate of DM250m (£60m) will go up by DM60 to DM310m.

Begin victory, photograph. Leading article, page 13

Choirboy's solo will start Christmas for world millions

By David Nicholson-Lord

At five minutes past three this afternoon a solo boy treble will sing the opening verse of "Once in Royal David's City". For millions of people throughout the world Christmas will have begun.

With the Queen's Speech and the royal turkey, the broadcast festival of nine lessons and carols from King's College, Cambridge, has become an integral part of the Greater British Christmas. It has bred imitators in churches and chapels the world over.

Each year, on the night before Christmas Eve, a band of stalwarts heads the queue outside the chapel, complex with sleeping bags and stoves. By noon today the queue will extend round the front court and back to the bridge over the Cam.

Early in January applications for tickets for next year's service will start to pour in from America, Japan and Europe. But only 20 tickets

are reserved for applications from abroad.

The allocation of tickets presents a recurring conundrum to the authorities at King's. About 1,750 people can be crammed in for the carol service. Until a few years ago about 1,300 tickets were given out on a grand-fatherly basis, largely to members of the college, and the rest went to those who queued. Then members were persuaded to give up their rights and the proportions were reversed.

The reason is that King's likes to see the service as its gift to the public. The result is that a college porter who made a late approach to the dean about a ticket for the service last week stands a much better chance of getting inside the chapel than the master of a neighbouring Cambridge college whose secretary telephoned a few minutes later.

Coachloads of visitors and plenipotentiaries flocked to King's at the last minute by the

With the Queen's Speech and roast turkey, the broadcast festival of nine lessons and carols from King's College, Cambridge, has become an integral part of the Greater British Christmas.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office can still disrupt arrangements.

The dean, the Rev Michael Till, recalls the occasion when two visiting dignitaries, each with his own bodyguard, faced each other grimly across the chapel. Both sets appeared to be expecting an assassination attempt, with the prospect, in the dean's words, of peace on earth and good will disappearing in an internationally broadcast hail of bullets.

For safety's sake, however, the BBC has a recording of the previous year's service held on stand-by.

Part of the King's appeal is undoubtedly its long history of broadcasts. The first festival of lessons and carols was held in 1918. A year later "Once in Royal David's City" was moved up to the start of the service and since then the format, culminating in a rousing rendering of "Hark! the herald angels sing," with choir and congregation joining in, has remained almost unaltered.

In 1928 the service was first broadcast on radio, as it has been, with only one break in 1930, ever since. Television and World Service radio came in much later, but the festival's present fame is largely assured by its front-cover billing on the December issue of *London Calling*, the *Radio Times* of the World Service.

Running parallel with the burgeoning popularity of the

carol festival has been the choir's carving out of a special niche in the world of classical music. Its first venture, a 78 rpm recording of a carol and a barcarolle, appeared in the 1920s.

Since then, in the estimate of Sir David Willcocks, former director of music at King's, it has sold, at a cautious estimate, more than two million records. Each year about four more recordings are added to the list, ranging from portobello such as "The World of Christmas" and "The Sound of Kings" to the more abstruse byways of Blow, Tallis and Taverner.

King's speciality, according to one critical onlooker, is a form of "sacred showbiz". The college does not object greatly to the phrase. This month, for instance, although admittedly a busy one, has seen the choir filming for tonight's *André Previn* television show and

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Surrounded by Christmas cards sent from all over the world, the Queen will be seen like this in her Christmas Day broadcast. The recorded programme has been distributed throughout the Commonwealth.

Some Boxing Day rail services threatened

Difficulties have arisen over British Rail's plans to run services on Boxing Day for the first time in four years.

If attempts by the management and unions to get signmen to go to work are unsuccessful, no trains will run from Liverpool Street, London, on Eastern Region.

The routes that will be affected if the men do not work will be those to Southend and Bishop's Cleeve, and mainline services to East Anglia.

Southern Region also said yesterday that some of its services might be disrupted on Boxing Day. Bus services on the Portsmouth line south of Guildford and those along the coast between Hastings and Southampton were expected to run as planned.

Difficulties were likely in the Portsmouth area on Tuesday, officials added. Men at the Fratton depot, in Portsmouth, have refused to work, and so have some signmen on the coast lines.

Thousands of Southern Region commuters were likely to experience delays for several weeks because of driver disputes over rest-day working should find their frustrations over from January 3.

Meetings between the region's south-east divisional management and the staff have brought agreement on rest-day working at eight of nine drivers' depots.

British Airways has provided 24 extra flights for the holiday. "It looks like being a record."

Christmas for us, the airline said. "We expect traffic to be up about 10 per cent on last year."

Four people were killed yesterday in a road crash in Wiltshire. Two adults and two children died on the A430 at Acorn Bridge, just outside Swindon. Three cars were involved: a Rover, a Daimler and a Citroën.

Wiltshire police said the two children were aged about five. They and the adults were travelling in the Citroën. Two other people were injured.

Central London was exceptionally quiet yesterday. The RAC said traffic was "down to a trickle". There were, however, big traffic jams and parking difficulties in shopping centres around the capital.

In the West End after a heavy week of late shopping, some stores said business yesterday was quiet. Total sales for the holiday period are expected to be up on last year's, though not greatly so.

Selfridge's said that it was not as well as expected compared with last year. Debenhams said: "It is not a great bonanza year." The number of customers was lower than last year's record, but total takings were likely to be slightly higher.

John Lewis estimated that sales this week would be no fifth higher than a year ago, and Marks and Spencer expected this year to be better than last.

EEC fair trade scrutiny on whisky

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Dec 23

The Distillers Company's decision to withdraw Johnnie Walker Red Label and Dimple Blended whisky from the British market is being examined by the European Commission for breach of the EEC's fair trade rules. Distillers' action was itself a response to the Commission's banning earlier this week of certain of the company's trading practices.

A senior Commission official said that withholding the brands or any other brand from the market could be considered to be "a refusal of sale" and thus liable to prosecution under Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome.

Among other things, Article 86 forbids companies to exploit their dominant position to restrict competition. As recently as last week the Commission fined a Swedish company £21,000 for prohibiting the sale of cash

register spare parts to a British firm.

The official said that Distillers' first reaction to the banning last Wednesday of its dual pricing policy for exports and home sales was ill-judged and perhaps designed deliberately to overstate the home situation. The Commission was, however, ready to discuss with the company solutions to its problems compatible with Treaty requirements.

Two other British whisky manufacturers, Teachers and Bell's, are also under investigation for operating alleged illegal export restrictions. In the case of Bell's, however, the company is understood to have ended the practice complained of in anticipation of an adverse ruling by the Commission.

The Commission is angry over the way Distillers' affair has been presented in Britain as yet another example of inept meddling by faceless bureaucrats in Brussels to the

deriment of the British consumer.

The logical and commercially sensible response to the ban on dual pricing, the Commission contends, would have been to reduce the prices charged on whisky for export rather than to raise prices on the home market or withdraw brands from sale.

Raising home prices makes little sense, according to the Commission, because of the strong competition on the British market from other whisky producers, not to speak of probable opposition from the Government's Price Commission. Reduced export prices, on the other hand, could be expected to increase sales abroad and create more jobs at home.

Distillers has claimed that its dual pricing system is necessary to prevent its 38 sole distributors abroad from being undercut by unofficial exporters.

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Many firemen leaving brigades, union says

By Douglas Macintyre

Labour Reporter

Fire Brigades Union leaders, who have advised their members to continue to picket fire stations throughout the Christmas holidays, fear that resignations from the service could exceed a thousand by the new year.

Reports from most of the metropolitan fire brigades yesterday indicated that support for the strike will still be solid when the union's executive holds its next meeting on Thursday. But there are growing indications that without an early settlement to the six-week-old dispute chief officers and the Home Office will face a worrying loss of qualified firemen.

The union said last night that it had no exact figures for the number who have handed in their notices or have decided to resign without notifying the employers that they have done so.

But estimates are that well over 500 qualified firemen have left the London Fire Service, 100 in Yorkshire and Humberside, and in Greater Manchester, where the usual number of resignations is 30 a year. 30 are understood to have decided to leave since the strike began.

Mr Kenneth Cameron, the executive secretary for the West Midlands, where 26 firemen have resigned, said: "We have not yet had mass resignations, but it is becoming clear that they could come before too long. At the moment our members are still waiting to see what is going to happen and whether there will be any movement at all in the employers' position."

But some of those who left the motor industry a few years ago to join the fire service are now fully trained could soon be going back there.

are now fully trained could soon be going back there.

The regional committee called on the employers to open fresh talks with the union in the hope, apparently forlorn, that the Government and local authorities might decide to improve their offer of a rise of a tenth and the phasing in over two years of a formula linking firemen's pay to the earnings of the best paid quarter of industrial workers.

The sheetmetal workers' union gave a turkey to each of the 42 firemen on strike at the West Hampstead station in London yesterday, and in Birmingham staff at the repertory theatre gave six large hampers of toys, food and drink to the union for firemen with young families.

By the time the 15-man executive meets reports from all the country's 63 brigades will enable the union's leaders to judge their next step. The chances of that meeting recalling the national conference, which alone could call off the strike by 30,000 full-time firemen, still appear slim.

London Fire Brigade has issued 100,000 leaflets to schoolchildren giving detailed advice on how to avoid potential hazards in the home. Another 50,000 have been sent to factories, local libraries and police stations.

The Home Office issued a press release urging special Christmas fire precautions.

Other fire news, page 2

Brezhnev offer on neutron bomb

President Brezhnev has proposed that America and Russia should mutually renounce the production of the neutron bomb. But in an interview with Pravda, the Soviet Communist party organ, he indicated that if the United States declined his offer Russia would produce its own bomb. Mr Brezhnev's appeal to America to save the world from this weapon was read on Moscow television last night.

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Polisario hostages home

There were emotional scenes at Orly airport in Paris when eight French hostages released earlier in Algiers by Polisario Front Saharan guerrillas arrived home. They were accompanied by Dr Walid Ben Abdelkader, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who played a large part in negotiating their freedom.

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'Sgrooge' in Hongkong

Hongkong businesses have cut down heavily on gifts to clients to mark Christmas and the Chinese New Year because of the drive by the Independent Commission Against Corruption to stamp out bribery. A bottle of Scotch can provoke inquiries, a businessman reported.

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Threat to Polish deal

Fresh difficulties are facing the controversial £150m ship deal with Poland after a decision by middle managers at Smith's Dock, Teesside, to withdraw cooperation on building two ships which form part of the contract.

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Ulster homes inquiry

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has agreed to an independent examination of allegations that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has mishandled one building contract. Mr James O'Hara, the executive's chairman, had asked for such an inquiry.

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HOME NEWS

Mr Mason agrees to independent inquiry into Ulster housing after allegations

Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has agreed to an independent examination of allegations that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has mishandled some building contracts. His decision comes after a request for an inquiry from Mr James O'Hara, the executive's chairman.

Mr Mason said he shared Mr O'Hara's concern about public confidence in the administration of housing. He added: "I will want to consider carefully the form which such an examination might take and I will be in touch with you again when I have reached a decision."

In a letter to Mr Mason Mr O'Hara said that various allegations had been made from time to time about improprieties in the handling of Housing Executive contracts. He added: "Some of these allegations have, indeed, been the subject of police investigation, but it seems that this has not brought public disquiet."

Suggestions that something of public concern was being hidden were undermining public confidence in the executive and self-confidence within the organization, Mr O'Hara said. He was convinced that any objective examination would show "that the overwhelming majority of the executive's staff have at all

times tried to do their duty to the best of their ability, sometimes in very trying circumstances."

He asked Mr Mason to institute a sworn public inquiry under an independent, legally qualified person of standing into the contractual procedures and contract administration of the executive.

Earlier this year Mrs Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston, alleged that there had been a massive cover-up after an investigation into allegations of a building swindle. She said that the IRA had benefited by £1m of taxpayers' money in seven months.

In a detailed letter to Mr Mason, Mrs Knight called for an explanation of why no proceedings had been begun. She maintained that the housing executive had put out contracts to building firms, often for the price of bombed houses in Belfast.

In some cases, she alleged, the builders were associated with terrorist organizations, and there was no proper control. She said she had obtained a copy of a report by two police officers into allegations that money from the executive had reached the IRA.

Mr Mason, a Conservative MP for Aberdeen, South, made an

Carols start Christmas for world millions

Continued from page 1

making a new record and a videotape for EMI.

It represents a full schedule for the 16 boy choristers from King's College School and the 14 undergraduates who make up the choir. They all have to fit in work at school and college with three hours' services and practice every day.

According to Mr Philip Ledger, the director of music, it is the yearly turnover of choir members that gives the King's music freshness, bite and enthusiasm.

"With the BBC singers, there would not be much difference between the second and fourth take of an item," he says. "The King's choir gets it just right on the second take, and after that it goes off."

An even more distinctive quality comes from the chapel's acoustics, which magnifies and attenuates every sound, including mistakes.

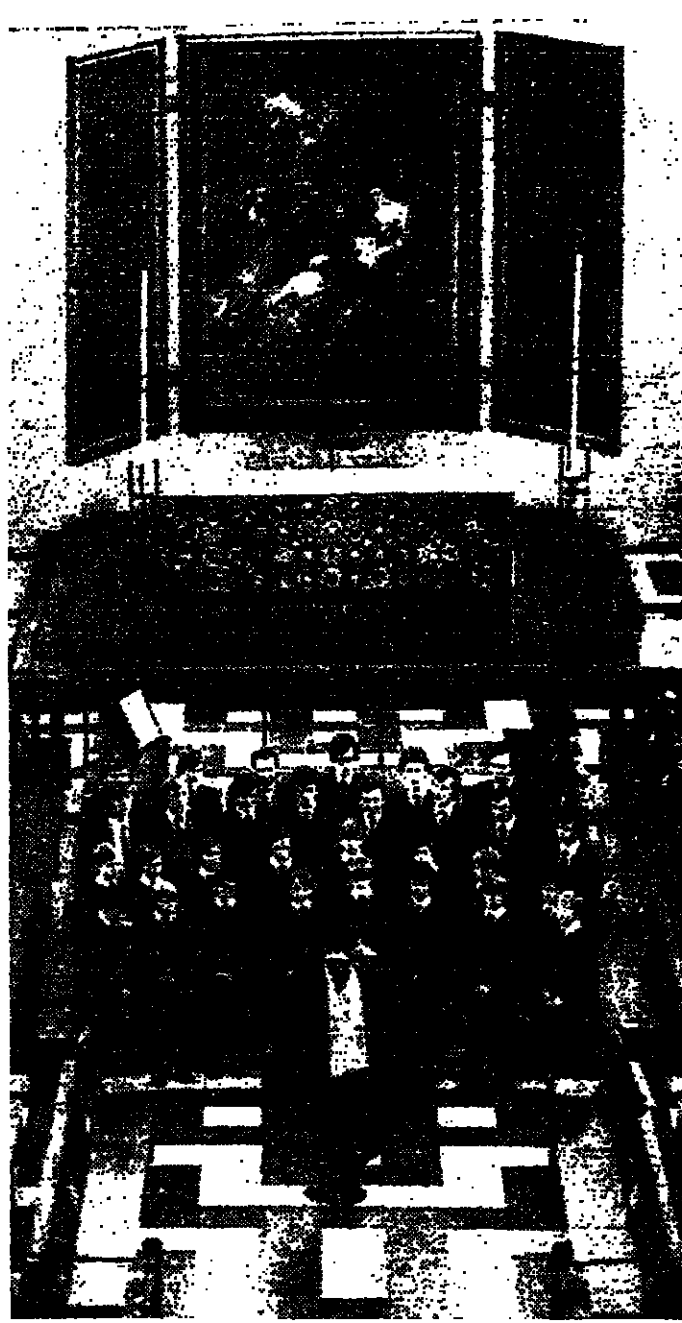
"Tribble forte does not sound very nice," Mr Ledger says. "On the other hand, it sounds absolutely marvellous if you sing really softly." Strangely enough, despite the immediate rush for seats in the choir when the doors are opened, the mysteries of the acoustic mean that the best listening point lies at the chapel's opposite western end where the proceedings are almost out of sight.

Even stranger is the custom dictating that the cross-bearer at the head of the choir's procession should be the president of the college boat club. No one appears to know why.

Perhaps the most unusual custom of all centres on the famous and much prized opening solo. The boy singer is selected for this only a minute or two before the service begins: a useful antidote to nervousness and possible disappointment.

One recurring nightmare besets all King's choirmasters. The 10 or 11-year-old whose unaccompanied voice starts the service has to sing the key of G major. If he misses it by a semitone, and the choir, joining in for the second verse, fails to make the adjustment, the impact of the organ, already set key, in the third verse will be disastrous. So far that has not happened.

The service over, the choir can afford to let its hair down a little. The men join in the festive hymns in the college hall, followed by a clearing away of the tables for a session



King's College Chapel choir rehearsing for today's carol service.

Dismissal notices to journalists withdrawn

By Christopher Thomas Labour Reporter

The Manchester Evening News yesterday withdrew dismissal notices issued to its staff editorial staff of Wednesday. Normal working will be resumed today.

There were four hours of talks on Thursday between the management and the National Union of Journalists and details of a peace formula were finalized in six hours of talks yesterday.

The 107 journalists began working to contract nine days ago because of delay in paying an agreed rise backdated to April. Since the management's paper has been produced by the editor, Mr Douglas Emmett, and three assistants.

Mr Ian McWilliam-Fowler, father of the NUJ chapel branch chairman, said last night that the management would have been better advised not to produce a paper in such circumstances, because the quality had suffered.

The journalists had planned to take the management to court to make an application for an injunction after the issue of dismissal notices. Under the agreement they will not lose pay since their dismissal.

Mr McWilliam-Fowler said later that the formula provided for the settlement increase to be made available now.

Appeal wins £100,000 for troops

A £100,000 Christmas gift was handed to Britain's front-line troops yesterday. It was the result of an appeal launched to compensate them for the tough job they face in Northern Ireland and in fighting fires.

The appeal was led by Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Stretford, who recently criticized the pay and conditions of the men serving in Ulster. More than £51,000 was distributed earlier this week, and Mr Churchill said money had been coming in from the public at the rate of £15,000 a day.

Mr Mulvey, Secretary of State for Defence, praised the courage, skill and stamina of the firefighting troops. Man dies in fire: Mr Leonard Wildgoose, aged 40, died in a fire at his home in Sheffield early yesterday.

More than 30 army firefighters tackled the outbreak at a terrace house in Daffodil Road occupied by three men. Mr Wildgoose was sleeping on a ground floor bedroom. The two other men escaped.

Firemen on picket line will depend on relatives for festive fare

By Donald Macintyre Labour Reporter

Most of the married men on the White Watch at Islington's fire station in Upper Street, north London, admitted yesterday that they would be dependent on their parents and other relatives to provide anything like a normal Christmas.

The 39 men on the station's three watches intend to maintain a skeleton picket tomorrow on Boxing Day, not only to ensure there is no attempt to tamper with fire station equipment but also in case they are needed at fires at which life is at risk.

In the space of half an hour yesterday an old age pensioner, a local shopkeeper, a passing motorist, and constables from the police station near by arrived to offer money, comics for the firemen's children, cans of beer and best wishes for Christmas.

In spite of the public support which the firemen say has been especially noticeable as Christmas approaches, most are expecting a bleak holiday from their six-week vigil on the picket line.

Mr Michael Newman, a qualified fireman, who has one infant son and whose wife is expecting another baby, said that he had received a social security cheque this week for £7.89 to last him until next Wednesday.

Mr Newman added: "I did not expect to be out at Christmas when we went on strike last year. A bit ashamed about what Christmas will mean for our youngsters."

Mr David Bush, a leading

fireman aged 27, said: "We will be relying on the in-laws and it will be all down to them. They have been marvelous but it does not do much for your self respect when you can not even buy the wife a Christmas present."

Mr Bush's wife, Annalise, who joined him on the picket line yesterday afternoon, added: "I work as an interviewer at an employment bureau and if I did not have that job we would not be able to survive, whether Dave was on strike or not. I have told him he should not go back until he gets a 30 per cent rise."

Mr Terence Smith, a station officer, who is bitter about his colleagues in the National Association of Fire Officers, who have been working normally and advising troops during the six-week stoppage, said: "We wish all the soldiers who are doing the job a happy Christmas. They are not trained to do what we do and that is not their

Leader of self-employed group resigns in clash

By a Staff Reporter

Disputes within the National Federation of the Self-Employed have come out into the open again with the resignation of Mr Owen Dyer, a vice-president. Mr Lex Reid, another vice-president, has been elected to replace him. Mr Reid is known for his feeling that the self-employed do not really want to unite. They are just seeking glory for themselves.

The federation has suffered from disputes ever since it was founded three years ago. At one time it claimed a membership of 45,000, but it is thought to be fewer now after the formation of the splinter group, known as the Scottish Association of Self-Employed.

Mr Reid said yesterday that he had worked closely with Mr Dyer in the national federation, and that they had

Body found

The police were interviewing a man last night after the naked body of Wilma Anne Allen, aged 20, a secretary, was found at beach at Ambleside, Northumberland.

A pathologist's report showed that Miss Allen, of Ivy Street, Ambleside, a secretary who worked on the local buses on Saturdays, had died from asphyxia due to drowning. The police said murder had not been ruled out.

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Cut in funds halts lessons

Mr Callaghan has been asked to help in restoring a cut made in funds for teaching English to refugees from Latin America. The cut has halted lessons in many British cities where employment and are destined inevitably to become a permanent charge on the state.

The group maintains that refugees from Latin America need a special treatment since, unlike immigrants from Commonwealth countries, they have no knowledge of English.

Scargill challenge over mines productivity plan

Mr Arthur Scargill, leader of the Yorkshire miners, yesterday told his 65,000 members that he would not fight or accept a National Coal Board bonus scheme. He said in a Christmas message that a decision to fight might mean strike action and a long and bitter battle.

Mr Scargill said: "An incentive scheme will bring more deaths, serious accidents, industrial disease and more disputes. But above all it will destroy the unity of our great union."

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm, Cold, Occluded (indicated on an advancing cold).

Today Sun rises: 8.5 am. Sun sets: 3.55 pm. Moon rises: 7.29 am. Moon sets: 3.41 pm. Full moon: Tomorrow.

Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.36 am. High water: London Bridge, 1.2 am, 7.1m (23.2ft); 1.21 am, 7.0m (22.9ft). Avonmouth, 6.21 am, 12.1m (39.6ft); 6.45 am, 12.1m (39.6ft). Dover, 10.24 am, 6.1m (20.0ft); 10.47 am, 6.0m (19.8ft). Hull, 5.16 am, 6.6m (21.5ft); 5.34 pm, 6.9m (22.6ft). Liverpool, 10.33 am, 8.7m (28.5ft); 10.51 pm, 8.6m (28.2ft).

Christmas Day Sun rises: 8.5 am. Sun sets: 3.55 pm. Moon rises: 7.29 am. Moon sets: 3.41 pm. Full moon: 12.49 pm.

Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.36 am. High water: London Bridge, 1.41 am, 7.1m (23.2ft); 1.39 pm, 7.0m (22.9ft). Avonmouth, 6.39 am, 12.4m (40.6ft); 6.51 am, 12.3m (40.0ft). Dover, 11.0 am, 6.0m (19.8ft); 11.19 pm, 6.5m (21.3ft). Hull, 5.37 am, 6.7m (22.0ft); 6.10 pm, 7.0m (22.9ft). Liverpool, 11.9 am, 8.8m (28.9ft); 11.26 pm, 8.7m (28.6ft).

Tuesday Sun rises: 8.6 am. Sun sets: 3.58 pm. Moon rises: 8.49 am. Moon sets: 3.38 pm. Full moon: 12.49 pm.

Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.36 am. High water: London Bridge, 2.46 am, 7.0m (22.9ft); 2.4 am, 7.0m (22.8ft). Avonmouth, 8.4 am, 12.7m (41.6ft); 8.27 pm, 12.6m (41.4ft). Dover, 12.3 pm, 6.5m (21.3ft); 12.41 pm, 6.4m (21.0ft). Hull, 7.12 am, 6.3m (20.7ft); 7.14 pm, 7.1m (23.3ft). Liverpool, 12.41 pm, 9.0m (29.5ft).

Union moves for fund to aid fined postmen

The seven postal workers who were fined a total of £1,400 by their union for organizing a mail boycott of the Grunwick works in north London may not have to pay the money themselves.

Moves were under way within the trade union movement yesterday to set up an appeal fund to help to pay the fines, which were imposed on Thursday by the Post Office Workers' Union.

Mr Jack Dromey, secretary of Brent Trades Council, in north London, said he had had talks with union officials and regional committees in London in an attempt to set up a fund. There would be an appeal in the new year.

He added: "I have no doubt there will be a very generous response when we make our appeal in the new year."

Enough free time to have a second job, and money for a private aircraft

The regular week is 56 hours, including sleep

From Ivor Davis

Los Angeles. Mr Kenneth Blizard, aged 44, lives in a £130,000 Spanish-style house on a hillside overlooking the rolling Pacific surf at Malibu, California. He and his wife, Faith, have three children, drive two new cars and spend weekends sailing their catamaran.

Mr Blizard has lots of free time. His job requires him to work only 10 to 12 days a month, for which he earns \$13,200 a year. He is a Los Angeles fireman, with the rank of captain.

American firemen are much better off than their British counterparts. True, Captain Blizard works a 56-hour week, compared with the British 48, but he sleeps through a lot of that. His 14-hour platoon duties include a regular eight-hour sleep on duty.

His working day begins at 5.30 am, when he leaves home to drive the 25 miles to the station he commands, close to the University of California. He arrives at 6.15, washes and shaves, and at 7.30 begins his day with 30 minutes' exercise, drills or house maintenance and a period of study of fire codes, building and safety regulations and studying the latest advances in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

He eats lunch and dinner, cooked by the station chef, who is also a fireman, and watches colour television, plays squash or lifts weights in the station gymnasium. Sometimes, with the 11 men under his command, he goes out to fight fires. If

he feels like doing a little extra overtime, he can earn £50 a day in overtime.

Captain Blizard, who has been in the fire service for 20 years, is not a member of the fireman's union, the United Firefighters of Los Angeles, to which 95 per cent of the city's firemen belong.

"I can see that the union is anti-administration," he explained. "They are strike-oriented and they think anyone in a supervisory rank is an enemy. They also give money to further political careers, and I do not believe in that."

American firemen, however, have voluntarily put into its by-laws a clause prohibiting strikes by firemen, and the State of California labour code also makes strikes illegal. However, in the past, there have been six work stoppages in California because of salary and hours disputes. "But," Captain Blizard said, "our guys would not go on strike if you asked them to."

In other big American cities fighting fires is a well paid profession. Its members have often been accused of sitting around all day drinking coffee and playing cards on the state and of making a fortune by taking life style to the fact that he is also a substitute teacher of physical education.

But, in general, an American fireman is respected and admired in the community. One of the country's most popular television programmes, *Emergency*, shows the Los Angeles

fire department doing much more than just squirt water on flames.

Firemen spend much time going to schools, lecturing, giving children colouring books about the fire service, taking them on tours of the station and even taking them for rides on fire engines. They are very conscious of public relations, and it has paid off. Everyone in America loves a fireman, without any of the ambivalent feelings associated with a big city police force.

Being a fireman in America has many fringe benefits, full and excellent medical cover for the whole family, and an attractive pension scheme. A fireman who retires after 20 years' service (and he may still be under 40) gets 40 per cent of his salary for life. If he stays for 25 years he will get 55 per cent, and after 30 years he will get 70 per cent.

Captain Blizard said: "I am looking forward to retirement because I shall also receive a good pension as a teacher."

A Los Angeles fireman gets two weeks' paid holiday a year, or three weeks after 10 years' service, plus 11 public holidays, which he may save up or work and get paid for.

Captain Blizard's salary is similar to that of a fire captain in any other part of the country, except Alaska, where it is slightly higher. The lowest-ranking firefighter in Los Angeles is paid \$9,000 a year; in Washington DC he gets about £150 less than that; and in New York City he earns only £7,800.

MP seeks a long Christmas break

Mr Gwyn Roberts, Labour MP for Carmarck, has tabled a Commons question urging the Secretary of State for Employment to consider making the Christmas Day and New Year's Day a general holiday period in future.

He will ask Mr Booth to discuss with the TUC and the CBI methods of progressing towards a general holiday entitlement of at least four weeks a year, including, where possible, a midwinter holiday covering the Christmas-New Year week.

Threatened Asian youth takes to active self-defence

By Michael Horsnell and Penny Symon

Ranjit Singh usually walks home from college with his hands firmly stuffed into his pockets. It is not an unusual pose for a student aged 18, but he regards his hands as lethal weapons and will use them in a last resort if set on by his attacker in a few seconds.

He is one of at least 300 young Asians estimated to have taken up karate, judo or budo (self-defence) in east London since the murder of an Asian of 18 in Southall, on the other side of London, last year.

Mr Singh was taught self-

defence at a youth club but most Asians are learning it at centres specially set up for them. We were unable to gain entry to one but Mr Singh demonstrated techniques being taught.

The decision by a growing number of Asian children from the age of 10 to take up self-defence marks a significant departure from their community's traditional attitude of passive tolerance.

Mr Singh, a science student, told us: "The older generation say: 'Let the police deal with it. It is only a matter of time, and it will fade away'. But young Asians do not believe this is good enough any more.

Whereas it used to be a racistist to be called a racist, it is now acceptable."

Mr Singh has been involved in three small fights in the past 18 months but his reaction is always to run from trouble if possible. He always wears rubber-soled shoes and loose trousers to help him to do so, and never travels on Tube trains or buses at night.

However, emerging militancy, particularly among Sikhs, is raising difficulties. Mr Mohanmad Ali Syed, a barrister and an executive committee member of the Federation of Bangladesh Associations in the United Kingdom, said his advice has been sought by Asians who have

tried to defend themselves.

At the Greater London Council elections in May the National Front candidates for the two seats in Tower Hamlets, the borough that encompasses the heart of the East End, came close to taking second place from the Conservatives. Many Asians are now apprehensively awaiting the borough elections in Tower Hamlets, where National Front candidates are expected to do well in some wards.

Although Asians do not openly blame the party for the violence, they believe its success has been largely responsible for racism becoming more acceptable, as they think-

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm, Cold, Occluded (indicated on an advancing cold).

Today Sun rises: 8.5 am. Sun sets: 3.55 pm. Moon rises: 7.29 am. Moon sets: 3.41 pm. Full moon: Tomorrow.

Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.36 am. High water: London Bridge, 1.2 am, 7.1m (23.2ft); 1.21 am, 7.0m (22.9ft). Avonmouth, 6.21 am, 12.1m (39.6ft); 6.45 am, 12.1m (39.6ft). Dover, 10.24 am, 6.1m (20.0ft); 10.47 am, 6.0m (19.8ft). Hull, 5.16 am, 6.6m (21.5ft); 5.34 pm, 6.9m (22.6ft). Liverpool, 10.33 am, 8.7m (28.5ft); 10.51 pm, 8.6m (28.2ft).

Christmas Day Sun rises: 8.5 am. Sun sets: 3.55 pm. Moon rises: 7.29 am. Moon sets: 3.41 pm. Full moon: 12.49 pm.

Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.36 am. High water: London Bridge, 1.41 am, 7.1m (23.2ft); 1.39 pm, 7.0m (22.9ft). Avonmouth, 6.39 am, 12.4m (40.6ft); 6.51 am, 12.3m (40.0ft). Dover, 11.0 am, 6.0m (19.8ft); 11.19 pm, 6.5m (21.3ft). Hull, 5.37 am, 6.7m (22.0ft); 6.10 pm, 7.0m (22.9ft). Liverpool, 11.9 am, 8.8m (28.9ft); 11.26 pm, 8.7m (28.6ft).

Tuesday Sun rises: 8.6 am. Sun sets: 3.58 pm. Moon rises: 8.49 am. Moon sets: 3.38 pm. Full moon: 12.49 pm.

Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.36 am. High water: London Bridge, 2.46 am, 7.0m (22.9ft); 2.4 am, 7.0m (22.8ft). Avonmouth, 8.4 am, 12.7m (41.6ft); 8.27 pm, 12.6m (41.4ft). Dover, 12.3 pm, 6.5m (21.3ft); 12.41 pm, 6.4m (21.0ft). Hull, 7.12 am, 6.3m (20.7ft); 7.14 pm, 7.1m (23.3ft). Liverpool, 12.41 pm, 9.0m (29.5ft).

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Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Mostly cloudy with hill fog; periods of rain, heavy later; wind SW, strong to gale, severe in places; max temp 8°C (46°F).

SW and NW Scotland, Argyll, N Ireland: Becoming cloudy with fog; rain, becoming showers; periods with hill fog; wind SW, strong to gale, severe in places; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy with hill fog, periods of rain, heavy in places; wind SE, strong to gale; changing variable; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Boxing Day: Unsettled; bright at first in E, cloudy weather with rain spreading from W, followed by showers; temp above normal, becoming rather cold in N.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind S, veering SW, gale or severe gale; sea high.

Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea: Wind SW, veering W, gale or severe gale; sea high.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 10 am, 15°C (59°F); min 6 pm to 9 pm, 8°C (46°F). Humidity: 6 pm, 84 per cent. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, all. Bar: mean sea level, 1,000 millibars, steady.

Overseas selling prices

	Unit	Price
Australia, 100 cwt	£10.00	10.00
Canada, 100 cwt	£10.00	10.00
France, 100 cwt	£10.00	10.00
Germany, 100 cwt	£10.00	10.00
Italy, 100 cwt	£10.00	10.00
Japan, 100 cwt	£10.00	10.00
South Africa, 100 cwt	£10.00	10.00
USA, 100 cwt	£10.00	10.00

هذا ان الاصل

The quiet steersman of devolution policy

He is unlikely to be replaced at the constitution unit. Its job has become the relatively simple one of steering two Bills through Parliament, insufficient work for a second permanent secretary.

In their Christmas messages, the Commandants of the three Western Powers in Berlin spoke of the good relationship among the allies, and between them and the population.

**Starts
THURSDAY
Dec. 29th
9 A.M.**

OVERSEAS

Polisario hostages return to emotional welcome in Paris

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 23

The eight French hostages handed over in Algiers by the Polisario Front Saharan guerrillas to Dr Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, arrived with him at Orly airport this evening in a chartered Swiss aircraft.

M. Louis de Guiringaud, the Foreign Minister, was on hand at the airport to welcome them home and to express officially to Dr Waldheim the French Government's gratitude for the part he played in the negotiations for their release.

The homecoming ceremony took place in the VIP lounge at the airport. As well as the hostages, relatives, the Minister of the Interior, the vice-president of the French Red Cross, a representative of the League for the Rights of Man, and one from the Mauritania mining company which employed the hostages were also on hand.

The press was allowed to watch the emotional reunion scenes from a balcony, but could not mingle with the hostages or interview them. This was to avoid both an unseemly "free for all" and the ailing by the

hostages, some of whom appear to have been brainwashed during their long detention, of Polisario-inspired propaganda against the French government. The press exclusion has provoked protests from left-wing journalists' unions against so-called "muzzling of the press", and against the Government's attempts "to prevent the hostages repeating on French soil the opinions they expressed at Lindouf (in Algeria) which were in complete contradiction with the official Government line."

The eight hostages appeared to be in good health. They had laid aside their army fatigues for new suits, shirts, and ties, while Mme Nicole Foulon, the only woman among them, was wearing a very smart suede suit.

In his speech of welcome, M. de Guiringaud assured them that the whole French people had shared in their trials and rejoiced in their release. He did not doubt now that they were free, they would appreciate the full extent of the efforts the French Government had made to have them released, as well as those of many foreign statesmen.

Institute plea for S Africa to free 18 journalists

The International Press Institute has urged Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, to release 18 South African journalists in detention and to give assurances that Pretoria "will cease harassment of journalists and the press."

Mr Peter Galliner, director of the London-based institute, which represents more than 1,800 editors throughout the world, has sent the appeal to Mr Vorster and Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Justice.

In his message, the text of which was released yesterday, Mr Galliner asked the South African Government to release Mr Anthony Holiday as soon as possible and to ensure that he receives proper medical attention.

It brings to the Prime Minister's attention the case of Mrs Judy Mayet, a widow and a mother of seven children who is solely responsible for the financial support of her family.

His message states: "The International Press Institute is still very concerned about the detention and banning of a number of journalists in South Africa. We are very distressed to witness the deterioration of the status of the press in your country."

"We receive constant

reports of heavy legal sanctions imposed in newspapers causing severe financial constraints and difficulties. We urge you to respect the freedom of the press and not to resort to the repression of all forms of criticism, a practice unknown in democratic countries."

Mr Galliner also enclosed a list of journalists about whom we are greatly concerned. Ten have been detained without trial under the Terrorism Act, three are being held under the Internal Security Act, and three have been banned. We are particularly anxious about the case of Tony Holiday, whose health is suffering. We urge you to release him as soon as possible to ensure that he receives proper medical attention.

"We have also just heard about the arrest on December 19 of two journalists with *The Voice*, Phil Mthembu and Mrs Judy Mayet. Mrs Mayet is a widow and a mother of seven children, and she is solely responsible for the financial support of her family."

"We would like assurances that your Government will cease harassment of journalists in the press and release all journalists now in detention."—Agence France-Press.

Biko damages claims sent to Government ministers

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Dec 23

Letters containing large claims for damages arising out of the death in police detention of Steve Biko, the South African Black Consciousness leader, were today sent to Mr Kruger, the Minister of Justice, and Dr van der Merwe, the Minister of Health.

The total amount being claimed is reported to be in the region of £210,000, although Mr Shun Chetty, the Biko family lawyer, declined today to confirm this figure. If correct, it would be one of the largest civil claims ever made in South Africa.

Mr Kruger is being sued as Minister responsible for the security police, in whose

custody Mr Biko was being held up to the time of his death on September 12. Dr van der Merwe is regarded as responsible for the district surgeons, Dr Benjamin Tucker and Dr Ivor Lang, who attended Mr Biko after he had been hurt during an alleged scuffle with the security police.

At the inquest Mr Sydney Kentridge, counsel for the Biko family, accused the two doctors of joining the security police in a conspiracy of silence related to Mr Biko's condition. The inquest verdict was that no one could be held responsible for Mr Biko's death.

Under South African law, unless the demand is met within 30 days the family can sue in a civil case.

Feuding chess challengers agree to play on today

From Our Correspondent
Belgrade, Dec 23

A temporary solution was found today to the dispute between Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi, the world chess title challengers, and their 20-game match will be resumed tomorrow.

The compromise was reached after Dr Max Euwe, president of the International Chess Federation, had spent several days in separate talks with the two players.

The dispute is over whether a demonstration board for spectators should be within sight of the players. Korchnoi complained after Spassky had spent most of the eleventh game away from the table, studying the position on the demonstration board and reappearing only to make his move.

When the referee ruled that in future the demonstration

board should be out of sight, Spassky refused to continue the match, arguing that the conditions of play had been altered. The adjourned tenth game will now be resumed tomorrow in a small hall without a demonstration board. But the board will be back as Spassky wishes for the twelfth game.

What happens after that is uncertain as both players are being held in a state of suspense. It is not clear if Dr Euwe's persuasive powers to save the match.

On a separate issue, the organizing committee decided today that the pieces with which the first 10 games were played should be used again. Spassky, who originally chose them himself, had then changed, claiming that they were too shiny.

The match is to decide who will challenge Anatoly Karpov for the world championship. At present Korchnoi leads 63-31.

Argentina 'tops list for jailing innocents'

Washington, Dec 23.—There are more innocent victims in prison in Argentina than in all the rest of South America, according to a report on human rights issued here by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a private organization.

This year, no Latin American country had a good record on human rights, some officials noted, and of them Argentina was the worst. It had 18,000 political prisoners, a figure supported by information from various sources, some official.

Uruguay and Argentina are listed as the least respectful of human rights, together with Chile, where a totalitarian system was being set up. The council listed Paraguay, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala as countries with only slight respect for

human rights. It called for vigilance regarding Peru and Ecuador.

Venezuela was best and Brazil was improving, but no nation deserved good marks in respect for human rights, the report said. Even in Mexico and Costa Rica, where conditions were better than in most of Latin America, there were many political prisoners.

Buenos Aires: A "sizeable" number of political prisoners will be freed before the end of the year, the newspaper *La Opinion* reported. Those released would be prisoners who were not facing trial or implicated in "subversive activities."

London: Latin American Newspapers said it was taking up with the British Foreign Office the disappearance in

Opposition in Likud to peace plan is crushed

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Dec 24

Opposition to Mr Begin's Middle East peace plan inside the ruling Likud Party was crushed in Jerusalem today when a caucus of the party's Knesset faction endorsed the Prime Minister's proposals by 29 votes to two with one abstention.

The caucus was closed to the press, but its opponents, Miss Gela Cohen and Mr Moshe Shamir, are known to have objected to the proposals concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which they claimed effectively renounced Jewish sovereignty over those parts of the ancestral Jewish homeland.

At the three-and-a-half-hour meeting, the Likud deputies for the first time heard from their leader a detailed outline of the proposals for peace with Egypt, and guidelines for a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Mr Begin is to present to President Sadat in Ismailia on Sunday.

Participants said they had a more complex picture than they had received from fragmented statements by Mr Begin to the American media, but they were sworn to secrecy.

The scheme is expected to be made public after the meeting with Mr Sadat. The Knesset is to hear a report from the Prime Minister next week after he returns from Ismailia.

Earlier this morning, Mr Begin reported to the parliamentary foreign affairs and security committee whose members had complained of not having been consulted earlier. The committee debate was not concluded and it is to continue tomorrow night after the end of the Jewish Sabbath.

Mr Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour opposition, said after the meeting: "I don't change my mind easily."

The participants of this meeting were also pledged to secrecy. However Mr Peres, on the basis of news reports, had earlier criticized the proposal



President Sadat at prayers with Mr Osman Ahmad Osman, his father-in-law, yesterday at a mosque near Ismailia.

giving autonomy to the Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

His criticism has been that self-rule and democratic elections in the areas may lead to the evolution of a Palestinian entity between Israel and Jordan. The Labour Party has advocated a solution in the form of a Jordanian-Palestinian state under which parts of the West Bank would be ceded to Jordan. The reasoning is that in any case many Jordanians are of Palestinian origin.

Mr Abbas Eban, the former Foreign Minister, said there were different appraisals within the Labour Party. He was encouraged because President Sadat had not discontinued the negotiations after the Ameri-

cans showed him Mr Begin's proposals, and that the United States and Britain had given them "a greater degree of encouragement than they usually gave Israeli plans."

Jerusalem: Mr Amnon Rubinstein, a leading moderate from the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), said after hearing Mr Begin's plans that he thought it was now up to the Arabs to show a spirit of compromise.

Mr Begin has made some major, some heavy concessions and it takes two to compromise, he told reporters.

"I think Egypt and the Arabs should show compromise too. There is no question of accepting an Arab Diktat."

Leading article, page 13

Fears of expansion on seven neighbours' minds

Distrust over Brazil's intentions in Amazonia holds up development

From Patrick Knight
Sao Paulo, Dec 23

Suspicion of Brazil's motives by its neighbours has led to a setback for Brazilian diplomacy. In recent talks in Brasilia, representatives from the eight countries with territory in the Amazon basin dispersed with- out reaching any agreement on a "cooperation treaty" as Brazil had hoped.

The others, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela were concerned to discover what Brazil's real motives were for proposing the formation of the so-called "Amazon Pact". Fears of its expansionist intentions appear to outweigh the evident advantages of joining together.

A strong reason for cooperation is the fear of the zone falling into the hands of the United States and Europe and rich in strategic and valuable minerals—is not physically occupied and developed by them all, it might be annexed by force.

Half of both Bolivia and Peru lie within the Amazon basin, and representatives of both took exception to the phrase "physical integration".

They suggested that "collaboration or cooperation" should be substituted, although the Brazilians insisted that there was no intention to threaten national sovereignty, and that "integration" referred only to transport policy.

Brazil's neighbours have some reason to be anxious. During the past 10 years, 7,000 miles of new roads have been cut through the forest by Brazil, running to the borders of Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Guyana and almost to Surinam.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants have moved along them in search of vacant lands. Many have already crossed into the empty eastern plains of Bolivia. Their produce is invariably exported and marketed in Brazil, leaving the countries alone. This is precisely how Bolivia lost a large piece of Amazonian territory to Brazil early in the century.

Venezuela and Peru fear the same might happen to them. Brazil has been building a proportionate amount of roads as Brazil. Peru feels that the creation of the pact is pre-

maure, and its representative stated at the meeting that it has other priorities before beginning to develop Amazonia.

Peru has deliberately not built its section of the Trans-Amazonian road, planned to link the Atlantic and the Pacific, and nearly completed within Brazil.

Besides strategic protection and occupation of the zone, there are many practical reasons why the pact should eventually materialize. The frequent but uncoordinated bilateral meetings and agreements need to be put on a formal basis.

It has been suggested that Brazil is anxious to use the pact formed so that it can use it as a Trojan horse for access to the Andean Pact. The remaining five members of this economic grouping, now that Chile has withdrawn, would be Amazon Pact members—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. They now absorb 5 per cent of Brazil's exports, and since according to the pact, regulations tariffs will be gradually raised, Brazil is anxious to circumvent this.

Man survives leap from 86th storey

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Dec 23

A man tried to commit suicide by jumping from the 86th floor of the Empire State Building yesterday. A gust of wind blew him on to a ledge on the eighty-fifth floor, just 15ft below. After lying there for some 40 minutes, he was rescued by a television transmitter room.

Mr John Helms, an artist from Hawaii, aged 26, had to be rescued by a fire department. He was taken to hospital for a psychiatric examination.

There is one previous case on record of a man jumping from the eighty-sixth floor and landing on the eighty-fifth. On that occasion, he jumped again and completed a successful suicide.

Mr Brezhnev well again after bout of influenza

Moscow Dec 23.—Colleagues of President Brezhnev have told Western diplomats that he is well again after a bout of influenza, informed sources said today.

One of the diplomats was told that Mr Brezhnev had had influenza for a few days but was now "completely well". His illness was described as not at all serious.

The senior Kremlin official who met the diplomat complained that too much was made in the West of the Soviet leader's occasional absences from the public eye.

He confirmed that Chinese representatives were informed of Mr Brezhnev's recovery in conversations during the last two days.

Mr Brezhnev was 71 last Monday. He has not been seen in public since he attended the Red Square funeral of Marshal Alexander Vasilyevsky on December 7.

Speculation about his health increased after his failure to appear last week at the winter session of the Supreme Soviet. Although absent, Mr Brezhnev was consistently quoted by speakers at the Supreme Soviet since the winter has printed a series of official messages and announcements over his signature.

The latest, which appeared in *Pravda* and other newspapers today, was a decree making three Ukrainian farm-workers Heroes of Socialist Labour.

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Russians relent over Chinese boats passing frontier city

Harbin, north-east China.—A recent Sino-Soviet agreement has reopened a river channel to Chinese vessels for the first time in 10 years, said the strategic Siberian frontier city of Khabarovsk, according to Mr Chang Chien-oh, a Chinese provincial official.

He confirmed that Chinese survey boats and cargo ships up to 500 tons had started in September and early October to use the channel where the Amur (Heilong) and Ussuri rivers meet. Ice closes the rivers from November to April.

But the official also accused Soviet gunboats of continuing to harass Chinese salmon fishermen by ramming their vessels and cutting fishing gear on border rivers.

Mr Chang, who is deputy director for foreign affairs of Heilongjiang province, was giving the Chinese side of the frontier dispute to foreign correspondents visiting the Heilongjiang capital of Harbin. He said an "understanding" on river navigation had been reached between the foreign ministries of the two countries,

US defence spending to rise by £9,300m

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 23

The American defence budget will total \$126,000m (£74,000m). This is \$9,300m more than the present budget, an increase of about 2 per cent in real terms.

The Pentagon wanted to spend \$130,000m and the Navy, in particular, is much dismayed at the President's decision to give it that much less. These figures, and the Navy's reaction, have been leaked to newspapers today.

Every year, at about this time, papers publish inspired stories of how the safety of the republic is being threatened by the President's hard-hearted refusal to give the Pentagon what it needs.

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The budget will be submitted to Congress at the end of January and immediately thereafter Congress will start issuing public warnings that the Russians are drawing ahead even faster than a year ago and that a few more billions for defence will save the union.

Congress and most commentators usually respond calmly to these philippics. They have heard them all before. Another reason for their calm is that the Pentagon often fails to spend all the money it is given.

The Navy is well behind on spending for the present year, and will be allowed to build 15 new ships for \$4,700m instead of the 19 ships at \$5,800m which it wanted. All in all, the Navy will have to make do with \$42,000m.

It will also have to make do with fewer F14 jet fighters, perhaps taking F15s instead. The commercial and political battle between the builders of these two fighters is still going on.

Mr Begin has made some major, some heavy concessions and it takes two to compromise, he told reporters.

"I think Egypt and the Arabs should show compromise too. There is no question of accepting an Arab Diktat."

Leading article, page 13

Salisbury evidence of women guerrillas

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Dec 23

Rhodesia today reached somewhat feebly and belatedly, to film and photographs now being shown at the United Nations of mass graves reportedly filled with the corpses of women and children killed in last month's raids by security forces on guerrilla bases Mozambique camps.

The Department of Information released here photostatic copies of documents said to have been captured on the raids into the Chimololo and Tembue camps which indicated that there were women there.

One document dated June 9 of this year under the heading "Zulu headquarters, Chimololo, Department of Personnel" gives a long list of names of women who had been "assigned on a mission to the Mankwa province. These names were many were the registration numbers of their guns, including at least one mortar and one bazooka."

Another document, supposedly issued by the Zimbabwe African National Union headquarters in Maputo in August this year, refers to female comrades who are "still regarded as good for nothing more than casual sex and beautiful company for male comrades."

It goes on: "Male comrades

still think it humiliating to salute their senior, ranking female comrades. The party badly needs to define with much greater exactness what role the women of Zimbabwe must play along the path of the revolution."

Pictures of women being trained in the camps were also handed out. The official said the documents and photographs were to counter allegations of innocent civilians being killed at Chimololo.

Sceptical journalists at the short briefing wondered why the Rhodesian authorities waited until the United Nations report was published locally before attempting to counter the allegations. Why the fuss when in last week's *Sunday Mail*, Lieutenant General Peter Walls, the commander of combined operations, said if women were training in guerrilla camps "one might just have to accept that we might kill some."

The *Sunday Mail* report was accompanied by a picture of women having rifle drill.

Meanwhile, the internal settlement talks in Salisbury took an apparently optimistic turn today after the much session between the Rhodesian government and three African nationalist groups. All delegates emerged with "broad smiles and Christmas greetings for the journalists."

Mr Nkomo arrives in Cuba for second visit this year

Harare, Dec 23.—Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Rhodesian nationalist leader, has arrived here on his second visit to Cuba within five months.

There was no information from official sources on the purpose of his trip, but observers believed it certain that he would discuss the latest attempts by Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, to reach a negotiated settlement with nationalist leaders inside Rhodesia.

These talks exclude the Patriotic Front whose guerrillas have been fighting the white regime for five years. Mr Nkomo, co-leader of the Front, has denounced these talks and plans a major military offensive.

Mr Nkomo's arrival was announced by the official newspaper *Grapana*. It said he had come at the invitation of the Cuban Communist Party.

Mr Nkomo was in Cuba last July for a five-day stay. He then said Cuba had agreed to supply his movement with all the arms and equipment he needed.

During that trip, Mr Nkomo had lengthy talks with President Castro and observers believe it likely he will see the Cuban leader again this time.

Mr Nkomo arrived here with a three-man delegation. The first time he visited Cuba was in the past few months he had come with the aim of securing talks and not for goodwill visits round the country, observers said.

Since Mr Nkomo's last visit here, Cuba has been reinforcing its links with African countries. Visiting here in the past few months have included the Presidents of Mozambique and Angola, as well as a black leader from South Africa and ministers of a number of African countries.—Reuter.

St Stephen crown move by senator

From Our Correspondent
Kansas City, Dec 23

Senator Robert Dole said today that he would take proceedings in the federal district court in an attempt to prevent President Carter, from returning the Crown of St Stephen to Hungary.

His lawsuit, he said, would be based on the constitutional power of the American Senate to ratify treaties between the United States and foreign nations.

"The return of the Crown of St Stephen without United States Senate approval is tantamount to entering into a treaty with Hungary without the required two-thirds majority vote of the Senate as required by article 2 of the United States Constitution," the Republican senator said.

The crown was taken from Hungary in November, 1944, to prevent it falling into the hands of Soviet troops occupying the country. It was delivered to American forces which had entered Austria and has been in American hands since.

Mr Fraser has 48-seat majority in lower house

Canberra, Dec 23.—Australia's new coalition Government will have an overall majority of 48 seats in the 124-member House of Representatives (lower house).

Final returns of votes cast in the general election 13 days ago gave the Liberals led by Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, 67 seats and the National Country Party 19 for a total of 86. The Labour opposition held 38.

The coalition held a record 55-seat majority in the old house after its landslide victory in the general election two years ago. It was the dismantling of Mr Gough Whitlam's Labour Government by the Governor-General.

The size of the House of Representatives was reduced from 127 to 124 members in this month's election by a redistribution of electoral boundaries.

Hongkong anti-corruption drive dries up flow of gifts

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Dec 23

Hongkong is suffering this year its lowest level of traditional Christmas box gifts from banking, commercial and trading concerns and hotels to their clients and customers.

In the city, boxes of wine, bottles of whisky and brandy and expensive Chinese ornaments were offered and accepted as legitimate Christmas and Chinese New Year gifts.

But the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has shrunk this flow of conventional presents. An unofficial survey of the old practice this week has re-

vealed that this Christmas—the third since the advent of ICAC—will be the "scrooge" in the history of the colony.

Goodwill is now interpreted as bribery, one leading businessman said. "Even the gift of a bottle of Scotch can provoke inquiries."

However, Hongkong's top-level officials and nightclubs—like the Suite Wong and the Pussay Bar—are reveling in the arrival of three Royal Navy ships, whose 1,300 sailors spend Christmas in Hongkong. Special force shows are being arranged, opening hours will be expanded and the customary Christmas increase in prices will not be made.

34 feared dead in American silo explosion

New Orleans, Dec 23.—Rescuers dug through tons of shattered concrete and twisted steel today searching for 11 men trapped under the rubble of a 45-gun elevator by an explosion that may have killed as many as 34 people.

So far, rescue teams working through the night have recovered 23 bodies from the wreckage of 45 silos which blew up in quiet succession yesterday.

Ten injured people were taken to local hospitals, where six remained in critical condition.

Federal, state and local officials began investigations into why the silos blew up. The initial theory blamed spontaneous combustion of highly volatile powdered grain dust.

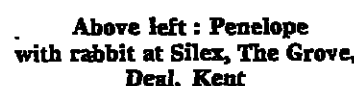
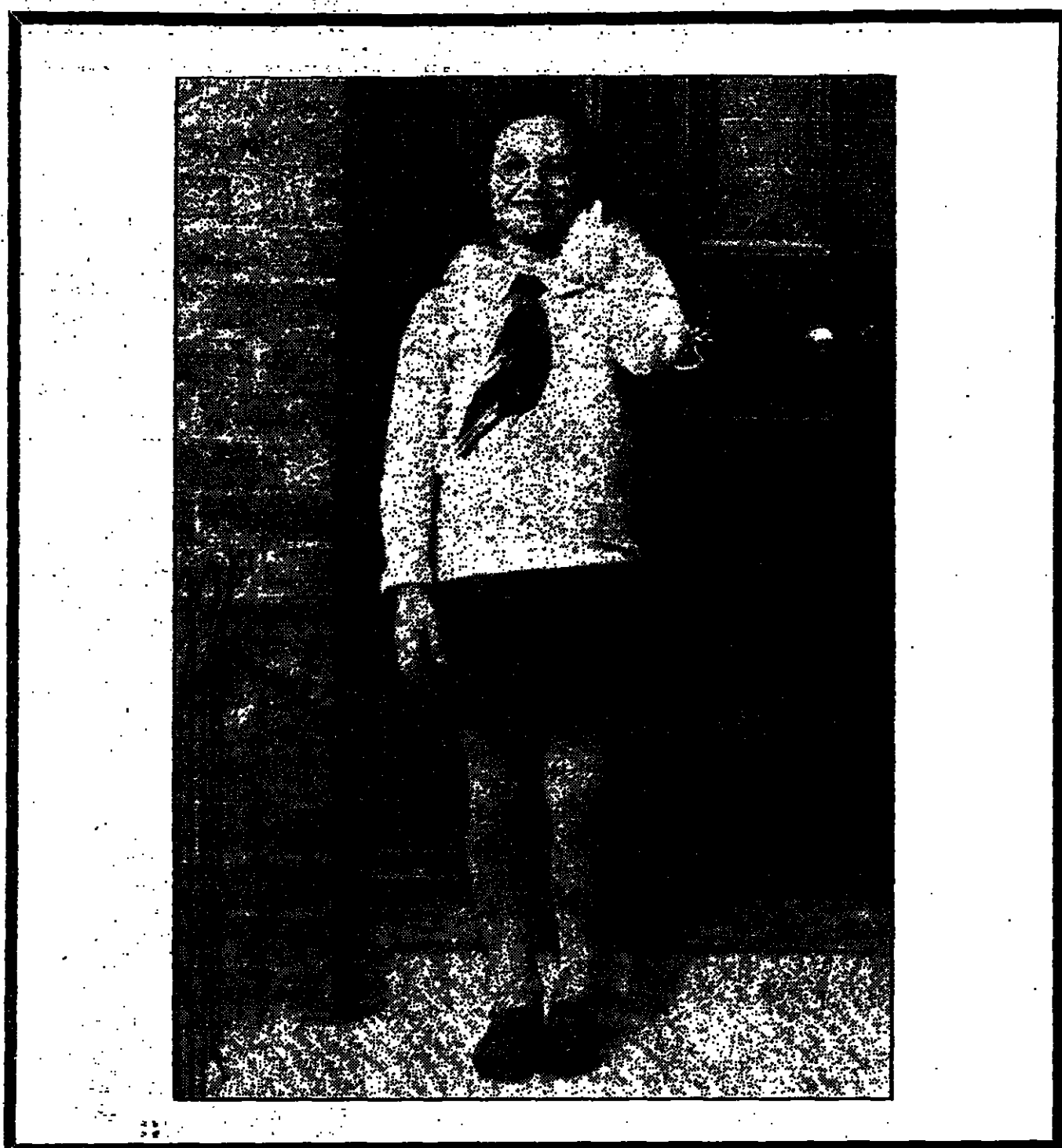
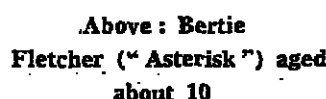
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Federal,



Uncle Bertie

by Penelope Mortimer

having no idea what my
 father's father Robert looked
 like. In the one photograph I
 have— a wedding picture, I
 believe, from the stern and
 determined man I have known
 on both my grandparents' relative-
 ly young faces—he is indis-
 tinguishable from any other
 of the generation. My grand-
 father: straight backed, stiff-
 collared, moderately whis-
 kered, a model of reliability
 and a type of man I could
 believe from swallowing a
 fishbone. He was a printer at
 the time; though I heard that
 the very distant past he had
 roamed in various directions, hav-
 ing no moss.
 His letters to my schoolboy
 father were domestic, anxious,
 excited and full of the kind of
 often cruelty that fathers
 use in order to be kind:

for us all. . . . I hope you will be in a good position in your form until the holidays—no excuses, mind! . . . Now old boy I really can't stay to say any more as they are waiting to set the tea table.

To set the tea table. . . .

8th April 1895.—Wednesday is the dreadful day on which you leave your school, and come home to the miserable place known as "home." If you don't like the idea of coming I daresay I can arrange with Mr. Hall for you to stay at Balcrochrone during the holidays, and then you will like just a little bit, to come to us, Bertie shall meet you in London and come down with you. Now you must be sure and catch the train I give you—it leaves Woodhouse at twelve minutes past one, you must take a ticket to Fenchurch Street and Bertie will be there to meet you. It is a Fenchurch Street train so you will not have to change. You will then arrive at Sixteen past twelve o'clock, enquire your postal order for three shillings which will be more than you will want, you can account to me for the change on Wednesday. Don't be late, and remember to go to Fenchurch Street.

St. May says - I'm very glad
 to hear that dear little
 Phyllis is better today . . . I
 shall be very pleased for you
 to bring Corbie with you on
 your next visit. I hope you
 will not be late in getting to Cheap-
 side, as I expect there will be
 a pretty considerable crowd. I
 enclose a postal order for four
 guineas for your journey. I hope
 Bertie to pay for your railway
 fares to London and back and
 the change you can give me
 when I see you. Mind you
 don't forget. . . Your loving
 Father.

He sounds an amiable,
 harassed man; my father
 never spoke of him to me, and
 I never asked. Compared with
 my grandfather, who had
 obvious even to his children,
 no interest.

I didn't like my paternal grandfather. Her name was Eleanor ("Nellie") to those friends she had and she was large, fierce and demonstrative as my mother's mother was fragile, timid and remote. Nellie had a large wart, or possibly mole, on her nose which I always imagined with the vivid disgust I felt through the ride on the Sunday coasting bitting off. It seemed to me that she lived in a poky, dark house, though this was probably because she was the kind of woman who would have no mirrors and could have filled a small ballroom with her moody presence, the house (Slex, The Grove, Deal, Kent—how many envelopes reluctantly addressed, how many written?) more luxuriantly than I was, probably the usual gloomy, detached Victorian villa, modestly clothed

in shrubs; it would be considered, nowadays, suitable for housing a fair-sized private school or nursing home.

I remember nothing vital about it, such as the kitchen or lavatory, or the room in which I slept on my occasional visits; only the over-stuffed drawing room, my grandmother clapping me to some part of herself whilst I struggled for breath against what may have been a wall. And there was certainly a piano, and I was certainly wholehearted; the anguish transmitted to me where I hid under the table as my father sang the Nunc Dimittis, solemnly accompanied by my grandmother on the piano (yet I don't think it was a Nunc Dimittis) — and I thought he was preparing to die after leaving me in her terrible charge.

There were aunts in this unhappy house: Jessie and "dear little Phyllis". The former, in my memory, was a venomous woman, with all the fragrant qualities of a devotee of the Methodist Chapel, a scrawny, sour creature. Nevertheless it was Jessie I wrote to from school when I lost my purse; and she gave me a new one, without shilling note and didn't, as far as I know, tell my father. Why did I choose her to confide in? If the eyes of a child are unreliable, the eye of memory is often hallucinated. Meeting Jessie again for the first time was over forty years ago, and I was a woman young to deal with her frustrations, exacerbated by the demands of a histrionic mother. . . . But the way I remember her now, was a lot more interesting: a shrew, a witch, acid-tongued, with glittering, raty eyes and a bundle of old hair. Disoriented by infancy, I was not aware of her infamies and originalities.

Phyllis, a pleasant-faced person of indeterminate age, was always confusingly affectionate. I was always to assume she was the eleventh child and—in spite of Robert's concern for her infant snuffles—grew up fatherless. There was always something faintly daring about Phyllis; almost, to my puritanical child's mind, risqué. She seemed to laugh more often than the rest of the family; which, since they were all so much to laugh at, was all the more memorable. I even had the feeling—irreproachable, vaguely troubling—that my brother's attitude towards her was not entirely nephew-like. Perhaps she was: pretty—I don't know. She married, anyway, and in later life became, driving incessantly, an entertaining devil-may-care, skirts occasionally riding above the knee. Cancer ravaged this family, and Phyllis was the first woman I never knew to have a master-

to my. Not only did she have one, she talked about it. But by that time I must have been in my teens and aware of the fact that women had breasts; until I grew them myself, I didn't notice their existence.

The rest of my father's siblings escaped, but a cousin was from my mother's side, from their loving mother, sister, I believe, ran off with an organist and "lived in sin", wherever that was. She was a very beautiful woman, and emigrated to America—I do not know his name, or where he lived, but recall that he wrote my father a letter when I was about 10 years old. I can trace the script now sloping and orderly? "Hi, you old sky-pilot!" My father, appalled, dropped it ostentatiously into the wastepaper basket; from which he soon (the man was lonely) he soon recovered it.

recovered it.

Another, younger brother, "Bert," landed up in Sydney, Australia, where he edited a newspaper, got into trouble ("Drink and gum-chewing"), and died, perhaps with a touch of syphilis and short himself. He was married and fathered what seemed to me an inordinate number of children, mostly in Desh, long after the scandalous event, and shattered the turgid gloom with their unfortunate mother's presence in retrospect. I preferred them to my other Australian cousins, my mother's nephews and nieces, who were all named with their bread(u) excellence, nobility of soul and aptitude for mathematics. One of these last—and I shall repeat, for it is sweet now—became a Bishop.

Bishop. No member of my father's family achieved such success: except, on my own rating, Uncle Bertie. Bertie was the eldest, the first son. My grandfather, for all his anonymity, must have had high hopes for Bertie. Bertie was clever, with a waspish wit and a disdain, on the whole, for women. He was taught at a boarding-school, and at the three schools he and my father, attended together, Bertie excelled while my younger brother (a fact that was to haunt him, poor man, for the rest of his life) was "the dunce."

When my grandfather died, Bertie was 19: financially, things must have looked rather grim, and Bertie took to "bum brushing", a startling contemporary term for "mooching", which in itself was a contemporary term for teaching small boys the basics of Latin, Algebra and Trigonometry. (Over fifty years later, Bertie wrote to me: "I should dearly love to see your brood, particularly the little male one. As an ex-usher and quite unrepentant, I

cannot help preferring little boys to little girls. I can amuse myself by building castles for boys. I know so little about the other sex. . . .")

When he was twenty seven a legacy (so the story goes) enabled him to enter Oxford as an elderly undergraduate, to be sure, but at least he went to a distinguished college and undoubtedly made the most of it; whereas my father, in his mid-thirties, struggled into some minor institution that I always imagine as being on the outskirts of Cowley. My father though he may not have known it, hated Berdie. I loved him.

him. "Why my father was heavy on me and Aunt Bertie was short with me, something of his sister Jessica's in the way he could set young teeth on edge; but, being a man, he was free to express his feelings. After all, I was a life in wit rather than venomous. Besides, Uncle Bertie had a History: he had published some book though not as many as I probably will make when I am written. The story I grew up believing was that he followed the ill-fated younger brother to Australia, where he became a member of the House of Representatives some kind—the title of one of them was "Man Into Tiger"—which, since I was devoted to my father, I was sure, was a very intriguing me. The younger brother passed, in a rather sudden hurried way, on; and the first World War broke out. My father, I think, betook himself to the South Seas.

There, for the duration of his life, he lived a peculiar and idyllic life, growing up faithfully described in letters to his friend Bohun Lynch, signed under the pseudonym "Asterisk" and published in 1923 under the disarming title *Isles of Illusion*. My judgment of this book, when I came to it in adult life, must be reserved until later; as a child, I was not allowed to read it. ("Though nothing will be found here to irritate the sales-cious," writes Bohun Lynch in

his introduction, "the book is not recommended for the nursery shelf." For my Uncle Bertie had not only betrayed his country, keeping his defenceless in his clasp of Heredity, but he had married a girl, and (and, perhaps, himself) by having a liaison with a native-born woman, siring various indeterminate coloured children, and by making the whole unseemly scene a subject of conversation to his mother, could never hold up her head in Deal again.

Perverse of me, I'm sure, but these unknown cousins—I imagine they are to this day—have been bred in the best of colour, noble and kind and of the colour of sandalwood—are my favourite contemporary relatives. I adhere stubbornly to

In this vision, even though Bertie himself wrote to me of his son: "He is married to a girl—son of his age—she is a good one—has two children, a nice little plantation and a cutter." So he is, doubtless, happy. These trusting, trusting people decide or no older than I am, and have never heard of me, or Deal, or their grandchildren who was feared by God. Uncle Richard has been a good man, seems, without conscience. I hope they all prospered, and that they, in a warmer climate, have been better than the Germans than I have; by which I mean that I hope they have avoided the communal threat of Russia, and the threat of the League, and the absurd moral obligation to disparage almost everything in between. Perhaps it is time just to tell them they are not the best of the world.

Berke returned home to find a note pinned to his door by Bible. He probably knew, being a cynic, that this was only a temporary disavowal; but he was surprised when Bible crossed out and re-admitted so many times that the "record pages" look like a shopping list. Bible made out that he was in a state of shock. Besides, he barely found himself something of a literary Non-Resistant. It was given two columns in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, an entire page in *The Times Literary Supplement*, "faisome" praise from many Yankee distilleries, and a place of honor as the subject of a long article by Sir John Square. Berke, sticking to his press cuttings into every war, large or small, was surprised to find that his own *London* didn't worry

The small furnace died down; my uncle returned to his true inclination, ushering. He would occasionally come and stay with us, but I was too embedded in my own life to notice him very much. Then, when I was about nine (a photograph of an exceptionally plain, cheerful child in a large tan or slimmer and steel-rimmed spectacles looks as though she's about nine) I was sent for one of my grim visits to Deal.

Bertie, he seemed, had taken up rabbit-farming: Angora rabbits, for this was the name of tickling Angora jumpers in pastel colours and hurried little for hats, and fluffy little for coats and trousers and anything that could be made out of that sickly and uncomfortable wool. The rabbit farm was near by, and I was to spend a whole day with Bertie. It was the most memorable days of my life. Teaching, I now realize, is a very interesting experience. It encourages a wildness of spirit, a hubris. Over the past years I have seen many of our young men "go bush", take to wearing unmatched socks, become wild-eyed and given to frequent bursts of inconsu-

quantal laughter, in the process of becoming mature teachers. Years of "ushering" had had its effect on my Uncle Bernie. He had been filled with any nine-year-old who came his way, even a girl, was liable to have its life changed. Whether or not he thought that I was suffering from the inhibitions of a country virgin or age or sex or biology or that over-emotional, uneducated, troublesome old for my father, I don't know. But he would never forget what he gave me that day: a taste of freedom; possibly, even, a taste of life. I guess that's why my Uncle Bernie bunk me as a castle.

Curiously, there was no money involved. I know nothing about her except her

nodding about her except that she was named Diane. It was an improbable name in comparison with Bertie, particularly in the wilds of Kant. However, Diane was not a name I had heard of before. There, I was told that I could do whatever I liked. Bertie was wrong in thinking me inhibited (if he did), but part of my reason for not wanting to have come from being out of sight of "the villagers" (as my mother called my fastidious, opinionated, and fussing neighbors) was as a tribe, from those who lived in towns or cities or (the middle of nowhere) and away from any kind of attention or affection. Also I had probably already spent at least two years in Siler, The Grove, Deal, Kant, and I supposed that I had had a good kind of cowboy costume and made cowboy costume out of the long grass.

My appearance, topped with the steel rings, must have been eccentric, but possibly it reminded Bertie of the South Sea; in any case, I remained in this costume all day, replenishing it as it disintegrated until boredom with the design overcame modesty (a quality which, according to my father, was always "false") and I played around naked except for odd wisps of grass that hung to me as though I were a small rake.

There was meat of some kind on the lunch, but I could not tell what my fingers were eating. Perhaps I was told to eat it with my fingers. I am sure that neither Bertie nor Diamant could make before forks, an expression of my disgust. I was obliged to excuse though not condone, my terrible blabbing manners. Two of my favourite fantasies at that time were of Robin Hood and the Merry Men, and of the adventures of a bear and bread roder through the fire to Sherwood Forest, and of Hiawatha gnawing venison on his skin and meat skinning his prey on a log. I was a warrior. Uncle Ernie approved. He then made his own mistake and gave me the young rabbit, a nasty little

thing with pink skin under its long white hair, which for some reason I called Gethed.

As usual, Bertie returned to "us" and seems to have drifted out of my life for a while. I remember little about him during the next three years. I simply do not know why I insisted that my husband and I went to stay with him for half of our honeymoon. It seems extraordinary. I can speculate, but speculation is irrelevant.

Bertie was teaching in Bude, and I was a student there for the first week or so in lodgings in Sidmouth, because that is what my husband's parents had done. In Bude, my uncle took a room for us in a vast, ancient, stone guest house, cold, drenched in mist and sea. We were the only guests, and skidded along the corridors like children. Presumably we also saw Bertie, since that was his house, but being there, it was as if he were not. He is there, around me, all the time, eighteen, that I begin to lose sight of myself and the particular world around me. I had changed my name, and was uncertain of my alias. Perhaps I went to Bude to see him. I don't know. I can't remember ever seeing Bertie again.

He retired to a house in Deal, where he lived alone, transcribing books into Braille and cherishing the remnants of his life's treasure. "You read French?" he wrote to me. "If so, do you know Henri Bosc? I am slow to enthusiasm these days, but I admire him very much. When I was a child, in modern French, I read and read Don Quixote. For years I have toyed with the idea of writing a life of Sancho Panza. I have been in contact, dealing with him in the late fifties, as I was writing a profile of my father and discovered, rather too late that I knew nothing about him. I please myself when I write, but I don't let my lazardized correspondence deal again. I am, inarguably alone mentally, but I cheer up none the less at threatened contact... I am very lonely indeed, but I please my dear, benign, generous with my dear, generous..."

It was then that he sent me a faded copy of *Islos of Illusion* inscribed, "To Penelope Mortimer (Peggy) from Asterisk," a very little star, long set, on a rising larger one. I realize now that the first time that Bertie was the only one of my entire family who, without resentment, bewilderment or disapproval, might have been proud of me. I do not know when he died.

Penelope Mortimer 1975.
Penelope Mortimer is currently working on the autobiographical account of the years up to her twenty-fifth birthday, from which this extract will be published by Allen Lane under the title *About Time*.

Television and Radio programmes

Christmas Day

2 pm Oh, the trouble William can create when he tries to follow
ITV the vicar's advice ! Not only William's Worst Christmas,
but most other people's, too.

4.40 pm Not a real old-fashioned pantomime, but the next best
ITV thing and certainly the nearest television comes to it this
Christmas . . . Emu's Christmas Adventure. Worth watching.

10.15 pm Somehow it does not really matter that a programme is
ITV little more than repeat material when the artist is
Stanley Baxter — J.R.R.

<p>BBC 1</p> <p>8.55. Bagpuss.</p> <p>9.10. Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe.</p> <p>9.30. Noel Edmonds presents Swap of the Pops.</p> <p>11.00. Film: G.I. Blues, with Elvis Presley.</p> <p>12.40 pm. Soviet Gymnastics Spectacular.</p> <p>1.30. Film: White Christmas, with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen.</p> <p>3.25. News.</p> <p>5.25. News.</p> <p>5.35. Eamonn's Broadcasting Comment.</p> <p>6.00. Supersense.</p> <p>6.30. Film: Third Man on the Mountain, with Michael Rennie, James MacArthur, Janet Munro, James Donald.</p> <p>8.15. The Duchess Duke.</p> <p>9.05. Dick Emery Christmas Show.</p> <p>9.50. Starkey and Hutch.</p> <p>10.40. News.</p> <p>10.50. Andrew Previn's Christmas Concert, with John Lill, with Midland Mass from Buckfast Abbey, Devon.</p> <p>11.55. News.</p> <p>1.15 am. Weather.</p> <p>* Black and white.</p> <p>Regional variations (BBC 1):</p> <p>BBC WALES: 8.45-9.10 am. Bantus back to the future.</p> <p>BBC SCOTLAND: 8.45-9.10 am. Experts reveal a Scotland.</p>	<p>BBC 2</p> <p>1.50. Arlecchino (Servant of Two Masters), comedy by Carlo Goldoni.</p> <p>3.45. Film: Double Crossbones, with Donald O'Connor, Helena Carter.</p> <p>5.00. Three Welcome Christmas, with Brian Cadd, Toni Arthur from Play Away.</p> <p>5.30. The Snow Queen, fairy tale for television.</p> <p>6.30. A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, with Michael Horner.</p> <p>7.30. News.</p> <p>7.35. Network, from BBC North-East: Keelmen.</p> <p>8.05. The Lively Arts: Karen Kain ballerina, a profile.</p> <p>9.00. Star Over Bethlehem, Christmas music.</p> <p>10.00. The Old Grey Whistle Test, The Kinks' Christmas Concert.</p> <p>10.10-12.55 am. Film: M*A*S*H, with Donald Sutherland, Elliott Gould, Tom Skerritt.</p> <p>London Weekend</p> <p>9.00. Our Bumper Christmas Show.</p> <p>11.00. Film: The Flying Dutchman (1939), with Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy.</p> <p>12.25. News.</p> <p>12.30. World of Sport.</p> <p>12.35. World Cup Sniping.</p> <p>1.00. Darts, World Cup, part 1.</p> <p>1.30. Crocker, dry Blackthorn Cup.</p> <p>2.10. Darts, part 2.</p> <p>2.30. Wrestling.</p> <p>3.00. Film: The Macabans: How the West Was Won, with James Arness, Richard Widmark, Eva Marie Saint.</p> <p>5.05. News.</p> <p>5.15. Celebrity Meet and Mrs. Mervyn.</p> <p>5.45. News.</p> <p>6.10. News.</p> <p>6.15. News.</p> <p>6.45. News.</p> <p>7.15. News.</p> <p>7.45. News.</p> <p>8.15. News.</p> <p>8.45. News.</p> <p>9.15. News.</p> <p>9.45. News.</p> <p>10.15. News.</p> <p>10.45. News.</p> <p>11.15. News.</p> <p>11.45. News.</p> <p>12.15. News.</p> <p>12.45. News.</p> <p>1.15. News.</p> <p>1.45. News.</p> <p>2.15. News.</p> <p>2.45. News.</p> <p>3.15. News.</p> <p>3.45. News.</p> <p>4.15. News.</p> <p>4.45. News.</p> <p>5.15. News.</p> <p>5.45. News.</p> <p>6.15. News.</p> <p>6.45. News.</p> <p>7.15. News.</p> <p>7.45. News.</p> <p>8.15. News.</p> <p>8.45. News.</p> <p>9.15. News.</p> <p>9.45. News.</p> <p>10.15. News.</p> <p>10.45. News.</p> <p>11.15. 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Tuesday

1.40 pm The skill and artistry of the Schools Prom performers never
BBC 2 fails to amaze and delight. A must.
4.45 pm Independent Television seems almost on the point of
ITV signing up the whole Royal Family for permanent
guest appearances. Today the Queen talks about her horses.
11.45 pm Late, but better than not at all... Mr Francis Howard
ITV presents a Touch of the Casanovas—I.R.R.

BBC 1 9.30 am, Chigley. 9.45 Flash Gordon.* 10.00 Film: Jailhouse Rock, with Elvis Presley.* 10.15 David Soul and Friends. 12.15 pm, Holiday Grandstand: 12.15, Rugby, Leeds. Walesfield: 12.55, Football preview; 1.10, 1.40, 2.10, Racing from Wincanton. 2.35 Holiday on ice, highlights from ice spectacular. 2.40 Top of the Pops, 777, part 2. 3.15 Christmas Knockout. 5.05 News. 5.15 Today's Sport. 6.05 Film: Support your Local Sheriff, with James Garner, Joan Hackett, Walter Brennan. 7.35 The Good Life. 8.05 The Two Ronnies. 9.00 Film: The Dirty Dozen, with all-star cast. 11.25 Parkinson and the Comedians. 12.35 am, Weather. * Black and white.	BBC 2 11.00-11.25 am, Play School. 1.45 Orion, rock musical by Ken Howard, Alan Bleakley, Melvyn Bragg. 2.40 Film, War and Peace, parts 1 and 2 with Ludmila Savelyeva, Sergei Bondarchuk. 6.35 Film, The Master Thief, based on the Brothers Grimm story. 7.35 News. 7.40 Opera, cartoon. 7.50 Moscow State Circus. 8.50 Who Pays the Ferryman? 9.40 Doug Henning's World of Magic. 10.30 Cricket 1977, review by John Arlott. 11.30 News. 11.35-12.30 am, Film, A Day at the Races, with The Marx Brothers.* Thames 9.00 A Heavenly Peace (r). 9.40 Chorlton and the Wheelies. 10.05 The Great Escape. 10.25 Clapperboard. 10.55 Film, Puffnutt, with Jack Wild, Billie Hayes, Martha Raye, Mamma Cass. 12.30 News. 12.35 Star Spangled Soccer (r). 1.20 This Is Your Life—Earl! An untold story of Burma (r). 2.30 Film, The 3 Gulls of Navarone, with Gregory Peck, David Niven, Anthony Quinn, Stanley Baker, Anthony Quayle, James Darren. 5.25 News. 5.45 The Ghosts of Motley Hall. 6.45 Opportunity Knocks (r). 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 George and Mildred. 9.20 The Best of Benny Hill. 9.30 The Lion Sings. 10.15 News. 10.30 Film, Gynshock, with Albert Finney, Billie Whitelaw, Frankie Fyfe, Venice Rose. 11.25 Night Gallery (r). 12.25 Epilogue. (r) repeat.	ATV 9.00 am, Thames. 12.05-12.30 am, Something Different. Southern 9.00 am, Thames. 12.05 am, Weather. Epilogue. Tyne Tees 9.55 am, Newcastle Point. 9.00, Thames. 12.00 midnight, Machine Bell in Concert. 12.30 am, Epilogue. Radio 1 6.00 am, News; Colin Barry. 7.02, Ed Stewart. 10.00, Simon Bates. 10.00, Paul Burnett. 1.31 pm, Queen. 2.1, 2.30, Kim James. 4.31, Harry Chapin. 6.04, D.L.T. 7.30, Alan Dea. 9.02, Humphrey Lyttelton. 10.02, John Peel. 12.00, Don Drumbridge. 2.00-2.02 am, News. † Stereo. 2 6.00 am, News. 6.02, Colin Barry. 1.02, Racing bulletin. 8.06, As Radio. 1.02, Beecham and David Jacobs. 12.02 pm, Family Favourites. Forces Special. 1.30-5.55, Sports, including: Football; Racing at Kempton Park; Cricket; Results of Sport Challenges. 6.00, 5.00, Sports Report. 6.03, Groucho. Appreciation. 7.02, Sing-Around. Radio 1. 7.30, Radio 1. 10.10, Star. 10.02, Don Drumbridge. 2.00 am, News. 3 6.55 am, Weather. 7.00, News. 7.05, Strauss, Mendelssohn, Bruch. 8.00, News. 8.05, The Sound of Music. 9.00, News. 9.05, Prokofiev. 10.00, Atrah's Music Box. 10.20, Brahms. A Bruno Walter. Myra Hess Concert, 10.40, 11.10, For Now and All Time, talk from BBC Sound Archives. 11.25, Brahms. part 2. 12.05 pm, Concerto in G minor, part 1. 12.30, Beethoven. 1.00, News. 1.05, Concert, part 2: Rameau, Bach, 2.05, Messiaen. 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Christmas vigil

Television

In a normal week the real trouble with television is that so much of it is so good (or at least so important). From those splendid, not-to-be-repeated plays, those seductive series, from those balefully riveting documentaries, who shall escape? Certainly not the concerned citizen, and only with difficulty the hedonist.

Throughout next week, which is not normal, the box in the corner will continue to exert a tyranny, but the tyranny will be a borrowed one. Take away the concerned might of world cinema and what are you left with? Nothing. I would guess, worth missing a party or a walk in the country for. This column, one-eyed in the country of the blind, must deal with the squally maximum of the classic and the chief musical pieces, and is therefore written for security guards, lightkeepers, and for all those who, without getting intense about it, prefer modest amusement to crashing television boredom.

No point in discussing the high peaks of showbiz, nor the regular Christmas cornerstones. People like Anna, they like. In our household we shall observe one Queen's Speech and as many Garland songs, Kelly leaps and Baxter skins as can comfortably be

fit in. Benny Hill, Dick Emery, Verwood, Morecombe, Wise and Forsyth—everybody who is anybody gets their Christmas apothecosis. The Beeb shall lie down with the IBA, and a great schmalz shall cover the land.

"Festively entertainment" (ugh) is graced by "choreographers" (?) and I would be failing in my duty to readers if I omitted to mention the fact that *Emu's Christmas Adventure* is even funnier and more vacuous than *Emu's Christmas Adventure*. I would equally be failing in my duty to London Weekend, who bravely offered a preview, if I did not also point out that this show is probably no worse than others of its kind which are wisely being withheld from critical view.

In the *All Star Record Breakers* 500 white-clad infant Ruby Keelers take their way through "East 42nd Street" at Television Centre (Humbert 1), assured children's entertainers go in incongruous guises, monstrous instruments appear and Kenneth Williams points the immoral. If you like this sort of thing, you'll love it.

For our household, Christmas Eve will offer no chance for strife round the channel buttons. Having unsuccessfully tried, when it was first broadcast, to stay the distance with the Italian production of Goldoni's *Arlecchino* (BBC 2) we

shall not be trying again. To a non-Italian speaker it is incomprehensible, and therefore only superficially interesting.

We may dip into the scrapbook of *Jubilee 77* (BBC 1) and we may quite possibly watch Esther Rantzen's *Superpets* (BBC 1) sight through. If life is tough for the superpet, the gifted child how much tougher it must be for the gifted animal? They need our support.

We shall most certainly watch Elaine Morgan's dramatization of *A Christmas Carol* (BBC 2). This is a lovingly put together piece of work in which the BBC's expertise in costume and period detail is harnessed to good effect. The transition from reality to dream and back again is delectable, but at the expense of the story's original numinousness. Clive Merrison makes a marvellously Dickensian Bob Cratchit, but Tiny Tim is not sickly enough, and Michael Hordern's Scrooge seems innately too fleshily making one think more of good dimmers than of greed. His conversion, however, is most convincing, and the final explosion of comfort and joy left me with a tear in my eye which was not, I think, solely attributable to the cold from which I was suffering at the time.

I shan't watch *William's Worst Christmas* (ITV, Christmas Day) a second time, but I

enjoyed it when I saw it. A big boy now, Adam Dannatt still purveys the genuine article, and this long episode does justice to William's capacity for forging social disaster from the best intentions. There are some lovely Lam performances, notably from Julian Orchard and Diana Dors, and John Davies directs with gusto. To see *Such Fun* (ITV), which should have been pure delight, is a profoundly irritating piece of work. The compilers of this midday comedy clips through the ages have cut and cut and cut, giving us a series of 30-second climaxes, like goals with kisses, the discipline of comedy rather than the living, breathing thing. It has considerable antiquarian interest, however—early Howard, early Cliff Richard (how much younger he looks now), early Max Wall (how handsome then) and early Stanley Baxter (ugh!). One thing's sure: you won't actually laugh at this programme unless you've got a treble whisky in your hand.

There are some tender moments in *Celebration: Were You There?* (BBC 2) as 75,000 feet of jubilee film are boiled down to an essential 1,200. If you dip into this film somewhere near the middle—after Train 0000's scabily progress—you will catch the heavy dragons climbing into their Gibber and Sullivan gear.

The prize-winning Australian feature film *Storm Boy* (BBC 2) will probably be

enjoyed in our house, but not again by me despite its beautiful virgin scenery. It's a sentimental tale of good (nature) and evil (civilization) in which the wisest character is a heroic pelican orphan. I couldn't quite believe in the relationship between Storm Boy and his father, who look as though they have just met for the first time on location. David Gulpilil, of *Walkabout* fame, makes a flamboyantly noble savage. Later in the evening we shall pay seasonal tribute to the intrepid John Martin of Leek and to the maker of an utterly mundane, utterly charming home movie about a family Christmas in 1934. *Christmas Past* (BBC 2) is the kick-off for an interesting series showing extinct movies by the earliest club-camera enthusiasts. Then, of course—*The Big Sleep*.

On Boxing Day our television will turn into a cinema—*War and Peace* and *Gumshoe*.

Tuesday promises some pleasant trifles, including junior music makers at the Albert Hall in the *Schools Prom* (BBC 2) and *Bertram Batell's Side Show* (BBC 2) in which Ballet Rambert revive a delightful work which they used to perform in hospital, family before they started to take themselves too seriously. We may dip into *Orpheus in the Underworld* (BBC 2) for its technical effects, but not for its

content. The unhappy pair are miscast and the whole thing is somehow infused with a *Rock Follies*-style bogyness. We shall give John Prebble's adaptation of *The Three Hostages* (BBC 1) a try—the cast and production team are promising—but if it fails to grip we shall visit *Allegro non troppo* (BBC 2), which is the British premiere of this Italian parody on Walt Disney's *Fantasia*. Then, more cinema.

Wednesday evening offers a direct clash between two new arrivals, and I can unhesitatingly recommend *Our Day Out* (BBC 2) in preference to *Washington*. *Behind Closed Doors* (BBC 1), which is where this new six-part hack epic should have remained hidden, if the first episode is anything to go by. It is true that Watergate, which was about grubby machinations by grubby little men, was successfully given a romantic face in *All the President's Men*, but this gem dwells largely on the clenched jaw muscles and sweaty scrumptious of the men at the centre. It keeps trying to end but, each time, on it goes again. "It's a long, long time," says Jason Robards warily as he settles down in his campaign jet, in yet another bid to summon up the credits. "Don't worry, sir. The good times are coming," says an aide brightly. I'm not so sure. Willy Russell's play *Our Day*

Out, though sometimes arch and heavily pregnant with social messages, has some delicious, and deliciously awful, moments. Having suffered many a time as my unruly East End classes rampaged in disorder on their way to the swimming bath or the local library (and even having once lost a boy in Paris), I can vouch for its educational authenticity. Born in Conway, I can recommend this glimpse of that pretty place. Because of ITV's cinematic competition Clive Exton's Christmas ghost story, *Seizure* (BBC 1) will not be watched *chez nous*. Well made, well acted (hear the hero of *Love for Lydia* use a Welsh accent!) this is a strong little drama (though I would add that it quite failed to chill my blood).

On Thursday *Cranford* (ITV) is, I'm told, quite jolly and *The Ballad of Salomon Parey* (ITV) sounds interesting. *Dark Star* (BBC 2), which here gets its British premiere, is reliably rumoured to be a highly original and witty sci-fi film. I may watch *Muscle by Jerome Kern* (BBC 1) a second time not because I love Arthur Schwartz's corny voice or his plonking way of playing the piano, nor even for the coarse-grained studio performance of the master's timeless numbers. Schwartz's basic recipe just is a good one—he makes a strong case for regarding Kern as a cultural milestone, and the hour is painlessly crammed with musical information.

I can only report on the second half of the Czech film of *The Little Mermaid* (BBC 2) which gets its British premiere next Friday. A spell was cast on the video link between Shepherds Bush and Piccadilly and all we got for the first half hour was a soundtrack (the first two minutes sounded suspiciously like a blue movie). The director, who goes in for a lot of artistic water photography, clearly admires Hockney, and some of the aqueous scenery is a real delight. But the whole thing has a slightly cardboard quality from the dubbing and dialogue ("Don't be angry with me, O succubus!" to the pretty hair-dos of the starlet and her pretty prince. Sillykirk to the rescue. Later in the evening we shall watch the convivial *Marylin Hamill* (BBC 2) in preference to the first episode of *The Professionals* (ITV), and the day will end with *Khaté*.

Wassai? Newyearzeve? Ah. Gene Kelly—fine fellow. Showa-way! Cheerz, anyway. Dled-moush? Wha—roy-baller? Switch off. OFF. Itsh new-yearzeve! Itsh pebble night! Cheerz!

Michael Church

TV films

With the BBC offering more than 30 feature films and ITV adding another dozen, there should be enough to keep anyone from whimpering because they can't get tickets for *Star Wars*. ITV, it must be said, could have been a bit more seasonal in their choices. Their big ones are Richard Attenborough's devout 1971 biography of Young Winston (Christmas Day, 7.15) and J. Lee Thompson's *The Guns of Navarone* (Boxing Day, 2.30). Their best (which is not at all the same thing) are Stephen Frears's funny and beautiful first film *Guinevere* (Boxing Day, 10.30) with Albert Finney as a would-be Bogart from the industrial North; and, for nostalgia, Sam Wood's 1943 *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (Wednesday, 10.20).

Otherwise ITV can come up with nothing better than a sub-standard Alastair MacLean thriller, Michael Tuchner's 1972 *Fear is the Key* (Tuesday, 8.30), and a couple of films that didn't quite: Lionel Jeffries's tale of time-travellers for children, *The Amazing Mr Blunden* (Tuesday, 2.30) and Jacques Demy's weird *The Pied Piper* (Tuesday, 11.05 am), made in Britain in 1971, with Donovan in the title role.

The BBC's season offerings start today with *White Christmas* (BBC 1, 1.30). Bing Crosby had been singing the title song since 1942 and a better film, *Holiday Inn*; but this is a nice enough put-on-a-show musical, with 12 Irving Berlin numbers and Bing and Danny Kaye as old army buddies teaming up with Rosemary Clooney and Trudy Sturges to save their old CO's winter holiday inn. Tomorrow (BBC 1, 4.10) Dorothy takes to the Yellow Brick Road in the now traditional Christmas Day screening of the unfading *The Wizard of Oz*; and for the fourth day of Christmas (Wednesday, BBC 1, 2 pm) there are Charles Walters's *The Glass Slipper*, a pretty *Cinderella* with Leslie Caron, but a bit too arty for its own good; and *Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines* (BBC 1, 6.50). Britain's rather long-winded riposte to *The Great Race*. Directed by Ken Annakin, it has Stuart Whitman and Alberto Sordi alongside a bevy of domestic stars (including the late Tony Hancock), and some lovely old aeroplanes.

Other juvenile offerings today are a 1939 Disney drama about a boy who dreams of being a mountaineer like his father, *Third Man on the Mountain* (BBC 1, 6.30), also directed by Ken Annakin; and *National Velvet* (BBC 1, 11.40 am) which was the making of 12-year-old Elizabeth Taylor who won the role which was the junior league equivalent of Scarlett O'Hara.

The other musicals are *Funny Girl* (Christmas Day, BBC 1, 10.05), William Wyler's 1956 bio-musical which coasts comfortably from cliché to cliché, though if you ever heard



Seasonal birds: Emu with Rod Hull and friends (ITV, Christmas Day); Mr Percival in *Storm Boy* (BBC 2, Christmas Day).

Music

For theatregoers Christmas probably means the piano, for musical people Christmas carols which, in terms of radio and television, have long meant the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols broadcast every year from the chapel of King's College, Cambridge.

This year's festival is, for once, not being televised, but is being broadcast twice, in quad and stereo, once on Christmas Eve (Radio 4, 3.05 pm) and again on Christmas Day (Radio 3, 3.00 pm).

The carols include Britten's "Hymn to the Virgin", Walton's "King Herod and the Cock", and Mathias's "A Babe is Born", as well as such standard favourites as Corneilius's "Three Kings" and "Quelle est cette odeur agréable". At 5.45 on Christmas Eve, Radio 3 broadcasts Hugo Wolf's complete *Italian Songbook*, as performed at Aldeburgh Festival last June by Janet Baker, John Shirley-Quirk and Stewart Bedford, a memorable event to be relived. That is followed, at 7.40, by Schubert's eighth and ninth symphonies, broadcast from Hohenems in Austria by the Vienna Philharmonic under Karl Böhm, a self-recommending concert.

By the time the Schubert has ended, music will be featuring on television. At 9 pm BBC 2 presents its substitute for King's carols, *Star over Christmas*, an international live programme of Christmas music which, by satellite, is able to

unite Bethlehem, Bavaria, Jamaica, Columbia, New Zealand, Azzule-Rideau on the French Loire, and Westminster Abbey (it is repeated next morning at 8.55 on BBC 1). After that *The Old Grey Whistle Test* has a live relay of the Kings' Christmas concert at the Rainbow in London, also to be heard in stereo on Radio 1.

At 10.50 (if you can resist the original film of *M*A*S*H*) BBC 1 offers André Previn's Christmas Music Night, with Lillian Watson and King's Choir to sing, Judi Dench to read poetry, while John Williams, Osian Ellis, the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble and the LSO play music. Finally *Midnight Mass* is televised from Buckfast Abbey, also on BBC 1.

If, after all that, the Christmas presents are wrapped, all are ready for Father Christmas, and you are able to wake up on Christmas morning inched for more music, at 8 am Radio London broadcasts carols old and new in *Christmas Present*, followed by Christmas soul music in *Black London* (readers outside London must themselves find local variations for radio).

Unless Christmas Dinner is early, or rather late, it may have to compete with BBC 1 and part one of *Top of the Pops* 77 at 2.10: I find it a maddening programme, but inescapable because it just might include a film as brilliant as that of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" two years ago. At 3.10 BBC 2 shows Roland Petit's production of *Coppélia*, compulsory for a ballet-struck family. Radio's turn comes at 5.15 when Radio 3 broadcasts Bach's Christmas *Oratorio* with a promising cast under a proven Bach interpreter, Richard Hickox.

At 5.45 my loyalties will certainly be drawn away to ITV and *The Muppet Show*,

favourite viewing which deserves a place for the brilliant antics of the orchestra (eg, the doggy pianist and the drummer Annette), not to mention the expert musical arrangements. Then at 6.25 back to BBC 1 for *Family Carols* with the Bach Choir and Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. Radio listeners in London may be directed alternatively to a concert, on Capital Radio at 6 pm, by the irrepressible and chemelonic King's Singers.

Early risers on Boxing Day can watch ITV at 9 am when Adele Leigh, a once beloved operatic soprano who turned her career to become Mrs Austrian Ambassador to Britain, narrates the origins of the carol, "Silent Night", with film taken in Austria. Those too exhausted to reach the television set can switch on Radio 3 for Prokofiev, composer of the week (every day at five past nine) with his first piano concerto played by Sviatoslav Richter.

At 10.20 am I shall hope to be with Radio 3 for a historic recording of Brahms's 8 flat piano concerto played by Dame Myra Hess in 1951 with the New York Philharmonic under Bruno Walter. It was her technique, but she conveyed its greatness like few pianists in my lifetime, and here she had an ideal conductor (Radio 4 broadcasts a retrospective portrait of Dame Myra on December 29).

At 12.05 pm there is eighteenth-century music, played in dapper manner on old-style instruments by Nicholas Harncourt and his virtuoso Concentus Musicus, then at 3.05, still on Radio 3, Verdi's *Il trovatore*, recorded at the last Salzburg Easter Festival, with a marvellous cast conducted by Karajan, a performance which I witnessed and much enjoyed; those inclined to grand opera can watch more

Top of the Pops on BBC 1 at 3.25.

At 7.45 opera-fanciers should watch the satirical animated cartoon *Opera* on BBC 2, by Bruno Bozzeto. It sends up gala operatic nights, and next day on BBC 2 at 9.10 pm there is the same artist's *Allegro non troppo*, a parody of Walt Disney's *Fantasia*, much praised. Back with Boxing Day, Radio 3 at 8 pm has Michelangelo playing Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit*, a major testimonial to his keyboard wizardry, and at 9.25 the annual Christmas Music Quiz, with posters set by Denis Matthews, a challenge to everybody's knowledge and memory.

On December 27 Radio 3, broadcasts, at 10.20 am, Beethoven's Triple Concerto and Eroica Symphony in performances on instruments of the period, surely a concert to stretch the ears of those accustomed to the modern concert grand and unaware of the orchestra he expects to hear. At 2.35 pm BBC 1 shows the ballet *Don Quixote* in the much-admired Australian production with Lucette Aldous, Rudolf Nureyev, and Sir Robert Helpmann, then on BBC 2 at 7.55 is Carl Davis's pop opera called *Orpheus* in the *Underground*, see Michael Church above.

Between Christmas and New Year the musical representation says, though on December 29 ITV at 11.15 pm, shows a film of Briton's *St Nicolas* which won an Italia Prize this year, and Radio 3 relays Strauss's *Salome* from the summer Salzburg Festival with Hildegard Behrens in the namepart and Karajan as conductor. John Higgins saw it, and was impressed; look forward to it.

New Year's Eve chiefly brings the live selection of Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* from Covent Garden, the music simultaneously relayed in stereo by Radio 3. It should

be a very festive occasion, a jolly, bonny, romantic show, traditionally associated in its native Austria with New Year's Eve, for them *Sylvesters-Abend*. At 10.30, after *Fledermaus*, the faithful will switch to Radio 3 for Schubert, piano duets played by Sviatoslav Richter and Benjamin Britten, another dip into the past. But at 10 pm BBC 2 has Bob Dylan, Led Zeppelin and others on a retrospective *Whistle Test*.

In Vienna New Year's Day is the annual occasion for a concert of Johann Strauss *cetera*, played by the Vienna Phil under Willy Boskovsky.

The concert is relayed live at 10 am on Radio 3, part of it also shown on BBC 2 at 9.05 that evening. At midnight a new series on Radio 3 begins. 1978 is the bicentenary of Schubert's birth. Throughout the year, at midnight, the station will broadcast one song, beginning with Elizabeth Schwartzkopf and Edwin Fischer in "An die Musik". Those who intend to listen and watch music during the approaching festivities will surely echo Schubert's refrain: "Lovely art, I thank you for that."

William Mann

One, Two, Three good films at the ACADEMY CINEMAS

- 165-167 Oxford Street, W.1.
- ACADEMY 1** 437 2981
JOSEPH STRICK's film of JAMES JOYCE's
A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN (AA)
"Reverent, intelligent, picturesque" SUNDAY TIMES
- ACADEMY 2** 437 5129
The amazing ISABELLE HUPPERT in
THE LACE-MAKER (AA)
"An extraordinary film... it starts where most others leave off" GUARDIAN
"Extremely moving" DAILY TELEGRAPH
- ACADEMY 3** 437 8819
A brilliant and moving film by Japan's
leading younger director
Nagisa Oshima's
THE BOY (AA)

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY

The Times Jumbo Crossword

Prizes of £10 will be given to each of the first three correct solutions opened on January 5. Entries should be addressed to The Times Christmas Jumbo Crossword, 12 Coley Street, London WC9N 9YT. The solution and prizewinners will be announced on January 7.

ACROSS

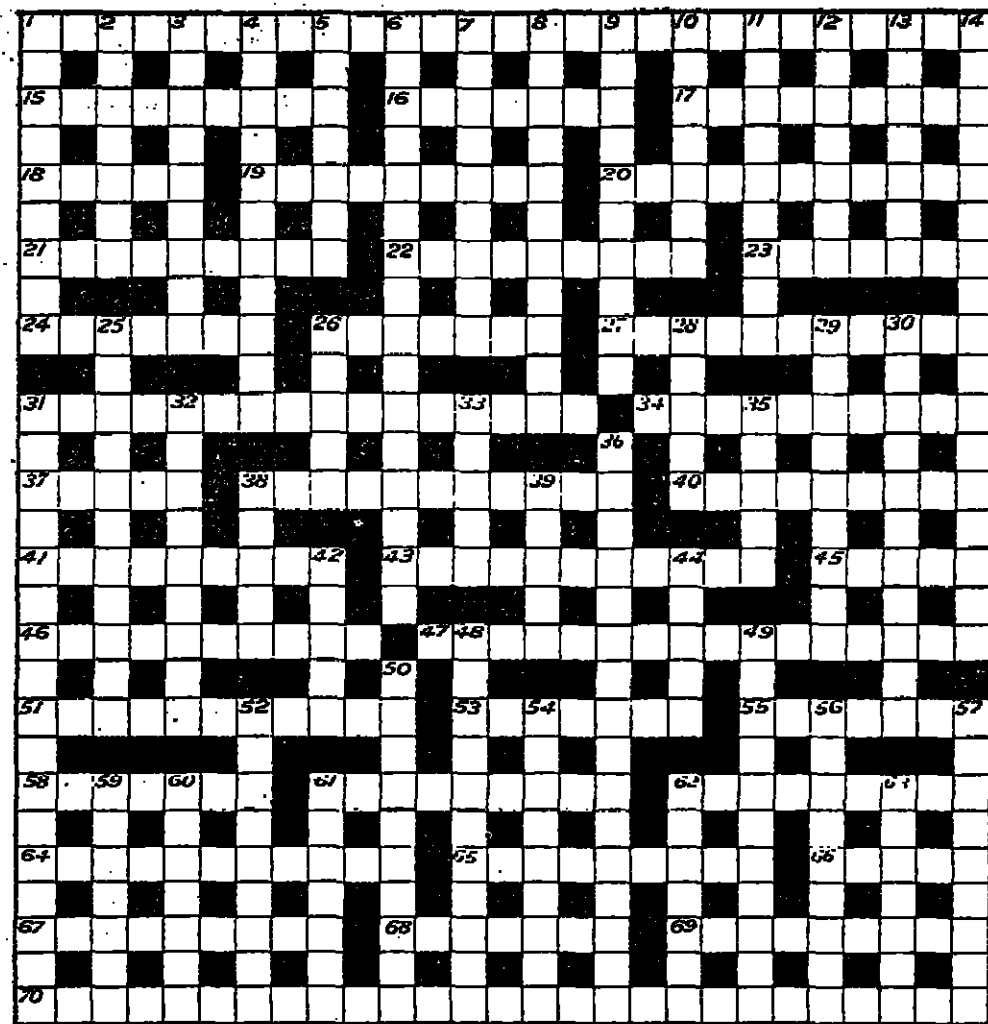
- 1 Old play suggesting the pounding of mortar fire, Sic? (3, 6, 2, 3, 7, 6).
- 15 Father consumes bread when on his beat (9).
- 16 Caught in it, Eric looked jaundiced (7).
- 17 999 OK, if one breaks a leg? (9).
- 18 Where Crockford fell, beat in a ring (5).
- 19 Refreshment here in summer abroad in the wilds of Africa (9).
- 20 Such sweet delight relaxing in one? (7, 4).
- 21 Goes on turning one into solid shapes (9).
- 22 Explet? A cut that's ruinous—so prove innocence (9).
- 23 Agent in stirring up physical defences (7).
- 24 How a lawyer says his piece indeed! (7).
- 25 Surrounded by the enemy, what can the poor seer do? (7).
- 27 Must take something for this complaint (11).
- 31 Cader's aim, to perish miserably in Sanders' office (16).
- 34 Like the frowning brow of the Iron Duke? (10).
- 37 He who thus hesitated was wrong? (5).
- 38 Very odd way to give lungs a treat! (11).
- 40 Type of arthritis used for flavouring a Spanish wine (9).
- 41 Stop cooking mice in sage (9).
- 43 George's somnolent fish seems lively enough on the beach (4-7).
- 45 A game of cards in it is far from fitting (5).
- 46 One's engrossment with drinking perhaps (10).
- 47 The best defence they say—to a shop-inspector's bad report? (7-9).

- 51 She experienced a spot of bother, to put it mildly (4, 7).
- 53 The last thing Henry King or Mrs Leo Hunter's frog does (7).
- 55 He claims he's got what Richard III lacked (7).
- 58 Throwing stick with point, having much in common with a boomerang (7).
- 61 Describes man, including many, many other things (9).
- 62 This old man of Dordogne chewed mango and corn (3-6).
- 64 Slowing down has torn about everything and comes to nothing (11).
- 65 Two wild 66 capture a French bark (9).
- 66 Small change in ancient Rome for fools (5).
- 67 Theory men concocted in a word that's the same but different (9).
- 68 Birds run wild within Hell-Gate (7).
- 69 New rate by the board can be remedied (9).
- 70 Good accidental prospects made the poet's struggle worthwhile (8, 4, 3, 4, 2, 6).

DOWN

- 1 Cock of the cake-walk? (3-6).
- 2 In progress abroad prepare to start at Waterloo (7).
- 3 A colour, in a manner of speaking (9).
- 4 Where rabbits have difficulty in going down their holes (4-7).
- 5 Charge-loss of first Football Association in need of revision (7).
- 6 Proverbially, no such cowardice in Paris (16).
- 7 Whereby a bowler cheats the batsmen (3, 6).
- 8 Real big rise arranged for Italian infantry (11).
- 9 "Chicanery" needed by drivers to circumvent them? (4-6).
- 10 Some swimmers eventually duck out of this (7).
- 11 Flirt with a ladies' man about tea-time (9).
- 12 Record article in it with a word of description (7).
- 13 Head saw grand Chinese deity (7).
- 14 One who won't forget being rooked at this old tavern? (8, 3, 6).

- 25 Reached give-and-take agreement—included incorporation of order (11).
- 26 Taken by a speaker in support of the chair (5).
- 28 Look up Hamlet's opening words about a vessel of war (1-4).
- 29 From Antrim I go for a change of abode (9).
- 30 His country's champion—Red Rum? (11).
- 31 Occupants of beds seen in London hospital gardens (7, 6, 4).
- 32 The impropriety of this month's frog famine? (9).
- 33 Contemptuous rejection, one of those in Hamlet's 28 speech (5).
- 35 A turn-up right in the back is not so common (5).
- 36 Missalini's saline nostrum (13, 3).
- 38 Odds on Pierre's place of retirement being in Yugoslavia (5).
- 39 Some particulars on crime (5).
- 42 Leading feature—nothing in it but a neat catch perhaps (5).
- 44 They are for writing musical entertainments (5).
- 48 With which fare A is happy (B it not) (3, 4, 4).
- 49 One's included us in a new version of Faust—what innity! (11).
- 50 King of the Andes stole Turner's soul (10).
- 52 Many a man speeding things up yields the whip (9).
- 54 Change up in cases when horse-power is developed (9).
- 56 One who might take the part of Roscius? (4-5).
- 57 Note Nepalese leader going up with fresh vigour (9).
- 59 Monks unofficially putting Titus about a pound up (7).
- 60 It inspired a ballad by the lover of Jaques (7).
- 61 Smallest note, a quid (7).
- 62 It gets anybody's blood up! (7).
- 63 Odd song about Lincoln turning up for lunch with a horse (7).



Name

Address

Travel

Bargains from the brochures



Barbados—a beach in the sun at a price you can afford.

A month ago, basking in the sun on a beach in Barbados, Christmas—and the traditional Christmas pastime of browsing through the holiday brochures—seemed a long way off. Now that it is Christmas, Barbados seems a long way off.

But it need not be. For one of the things that a dedicated brochure browser will quickly discover is that in 1978 a holiday in Barbados need cost only about the same as, say, a holiday in Greece.

The same is true of a whole host of other long-haul, and often exotic, destinations. In many cases these destinations are next year's biggest holiday bargains.

And this means that places like the Caribbean are no longer a rich man's playground. True, many of the West Indian islands are keyed to the American market and far from cheap. But prices starting at £225 British Airways (Speedbird) you can have a two-week holiday on the quaintly British-oriented yet none the less unashamedly Caribbean island of Barbados, staying in self-catering apartments. This inclusive rate represents a huge saving in the normal return air fare even though you will be using scheduled flights, and the island itself is not prohibitively expensive.

Shop in local markets, eat in local restaurants, picnic on the endless beaches, and you will find the cost of living far cheaper than in Britain. Taxi and car hire equate with British rates, but there are numerous good value island excursions including the not-to-be-missed cruise on the state ship Jolly Roger, when our fare of £3 includes non-stop entertainment, all you can eat, all you can drink, and a dose-up of the stunning coastline of Barbados.

So an inclusive holiday to Barbados would be my first election from the brochures in 1978 when holidaymakers will have all been seeking value for money. You do not have to stay in a self-catering apartment, of course—you can spend two weeks at the Cobblers Cove Hotel in the north of the island, which is the nicest hotel that I stayed in anywhere in the world during 1977; but then the prices for a two-week holiday start at £455.

Most of the transatlantic holiday traffic next year will be heading farther north, however, to the United States. British tourism to the United States fell slightly this year, perhaps because people were waiting to see just how far the air fares would tumble. My brochures show a current low of £39 London-New York return (Laker), but this is aimed at long-stay visitors and away from the price war may not be over yet. So it might be worth waiting for a while if you are planning a holiday in America—even if the fares stop falling, most inclusive tour operators have not yet caught up with the situation sufficiently to offer cut-price ground arrangements once you are there (an exception is Arrowsmith). But remember that cheap internal transport can be arranged in advance through travel agents here in Britain, and that the cost of living in America is still lower than ours.

The United States, then, must count as another 1978 holiday bargain, for the fact that they will undoubtedly bring about a big increase in the number of British visitors and mark a turning point in the development of the holiday market.

The other big turning point next year will be the growth of self-catering and do-it-yourself holidays. The attractions of self-catering holidays are obvious enough: you can do what you like, when you like, and with whom you like. They are ideal for groups of friends or people with young families, and they were given a boost this year by the fact that they appear to work out more cheaply than other kinds of holiday and because of the increasing popularity of travelling by car on holiday.

Continental motoring will be given added impetus in the coming season by the pegging of most cross-channel ferry prices—a welcome innovation on what has long been regarded as the world's most expensive stretch of water. Indeed, competition among the various ferry operators is now so intense that there could be a price-cutting "war" on the Channel next summer which would serve to make car holidays even more popular.

One cannot argue with the freedom that such holidays give.

But they seldom work out as cheaply as one thinks.

That is why I welcome the increasing interest that the holiday companies are taking in the self-catering market. Unless you are going only a very short distance, it is impossible to compete with charter flight rates how ever many people you cram into your car; and the tour operators do keep a firm eye on the sometimes tricky customers who own and run those overseas villas and apartments. In fact the only point at which the tour operators fall down is in their inability to offer anything but token discounts for young children because of the straight-forward economic fact that air-fare is filled and paid for on a how-many-bottoms-in-how-many-seats basis.

Some of the self-catering deals, therefore, are among the brochure "bargains". For families I would choose Malta, with its guaranteed sunshine and very low cost of living. Two weeks at the Mistra Village Aparthotel, which combines the best of self-catering and hotel holidays and has the advantage of being near St Paul's Bay (not something to be sneezed at on rocky Malta) starts at £150 in the summer (Medallion Holidays). The more adventurous might prefer a taverna holiday on the Greek island of Corfu which I have tried and can recommend (from £110 for two weeks; OSU).

Closer to home, you can get away from it all by looking after yourself on a traditional canal narrow boat (far roomier than most other kinds of boat) on the Thames or in the Midlands, which the hire company will estimate will cost a total of about £42 per person per week in high season.

That would be a personal choice in 1978 both for enjoyment and value for money. Another personal choice would be the lovely Channel Island of Herm (two weeks in the island's only hotel starts at £169; Jetline).

It really does pay to study the brochures carefully, and to compare prices. If you are going to Spain, take a close look at Intasun's prices. The same goes for Medina Holidays in Greece, Wings (Greek islands), Executive Travel (Turkey) or Scantours (Scandinavia); such

local specialists often seem to offer the best deal.

You can save money, too, by looking out for special offers such as the popular Cosmos night flights. Night departures may sound nasty, but a whole host of holidaymakers insist that they are far more reliable than daytime ones as well as being cheaper.

If you are planning a short-haul package holiday next summer, you should decide soon. A shortage of airline capacity could cause problems as the season progresses, and one airline spokesman is already warning ominously: "We do not see a late booking situation next year—because they're not." It is anything left to book.

There will be no such problems for those travelling farther afield—and, as I have said, the long-haul prices can be a pleasant surprise.

Among the most pleasant surprises—and to my mind, the best holiday bargains for next year—are:

Thailand: Two weeks in Pattaya at the Hyatt Pattaya Palace from £390 (Rankin Kuhn). East Africa: Two weeks in Kenya including a visit to the traffic-free island of Lamu, from £330 (Sovereign).

Israel: a seven-day sightseeing tour taking in all the historical and biblical high spots and using first class accommodation, from £352 (Modernline).

China: Two weeks in Hong Kong and southern China fully escorted, from £625 (Bales Tours).

A less pleasant surprise is that Treasure Key, in the Bahamas, is missing from the current British Airways brochures—a sad omission for this is an extremely beautiful holiday spot. But the airline do assure me that they can still tailor-make inclusive holidays to this or any other destination, and that the savings on both the flight and your accommodation will be very considerable.

Bold words—but ones which demonstrate all too clearly that the individual who insists upon making all his own holiday arrangements will almost always end up paying heavily for the privilege.

Robin Mead

Radio

Past and future

Traditionally the Saturday before Christmas is dedicated to a sort of catalogue of all the Jolly gift-wrapped programmes you might acquire in the unlikely event that you are able to spend quite a lot of your time in the next few days attending to your radio. It is a tradition I'm intending to respect but not this year at the cost of ignoring utterly the output of a rather interesting week gone by, a week containing among other things Gordon Honeycombe's dramatization of the last two books—in my edition the last four—from Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* under the title *Lancelot and Guinevere* (producer Martin Jenkins).

Negative as it may sound, your professional radio listener sits down to anything lasting, as this did, five minutes under the two hours with a certain amount of caution. It is a criterion and an important one, when and if he stays the full time out, whether 115 minutes or whatever seemed very long or very short or rather like the time it was *Lancelot and Guinevere* was on the shorter side.

The story helped very much, of course: this is the culmination of the disaster, the fateful moment when the Queen's betrayal is uncovered once for all, things will never be the same again.

It was striking as this unfolded how the classic response to accusation seems to have been as effective then in legendary times as it is now: when found out, deny all truth and challenge your accuser to make

his libel stick, by force if necessary—a thing few were ready to do if the challenger happened to be Lancelot, or would do now if he had equivalent might. Yet in Malory all the denials and challenges, though often they bought time, did not really help but in the end merely compounded the lying and suspicion and thus fuelled the catastrophe. There was excellent music (by Derek Oldfield) and some acting as fine as might have been expected from a cast that included Norman Rodway, Anna Massey, Peter Jeffrey, Richard Pasco. These and others spoke their lines with a special fluidity and conviction, yet what gave the production particular coherence and pathos too was the speaking of the least dramatic role of all: Timothy West as Malory the storyteller persuaded us that what he had to tell was something deeper than romance—which to a man writing in the Tower during the late 1400s, it very probably was.

A romance of times a shade less shifting, *The Faerie Queene*, has been in progress for the past 13 weeks and I apologize to its makers—David Spencer as producer and Gary Bond as principal reader—for not mentioning the matter earlier. The six or seven episodes I heard were always a pleasure to listen to, both for choice of music and for the vitality of their presentation.

Christopher Fry at 70 celebrated the playwright's birthday in uncommon but in telling

fashion: this was a feature written by Frederick Bradnum and based on Fry's family history, its subject spoke for himself as narrator while actors filled in for the ancestors. "Trouble at home" confided Aunt Ada tersely to her diary in one of a series of plunging understatements which must have made that document a monstrous dull read, but were enormously effective in the context of this programme and the realization of what the "trouble" was. Angela Pleasance conjured up Ada with tight and edgy voice. The following evening's revival of *A Sleep of Prisms* with its re-creation of that profusion of language and imagery which fell on minds conditioned to wartime austerity like a shower of golden rain, sounded now somewhat over-wrought, its confidence and the bright words that carried it not quite easy in these grasping nervous times.

So much for the best gone by. What about prospects for the next few days? Radio 3 is offering tomorrow night the original four-act version of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, performed by a strong cast which includes Richard Pasco, Jeremy Clyde, Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Prunella Scales; the director is Ian Couterrell which ought to augur well. Throughout the week at midnight there is a tiny snatch of *Christmas Song* to close the long and over-extended. The annual *Music Quiz* on Boxing Day is to be presented in the style of *Call My Bluff*. Radio 4 this year looks

as good as I remember, if not better. Tomorrow there is *Jane Austen at Home* (5.15 pm) which purports to be an evening's entertainment such as might have been enjoyed at Chawton; at 10.30 Penelope Keith is the lady who receives... and yet another *Partridge in a Pear Tree* from an admirer who is also a somewhat literal-minded interpreter of the famous carol. On Boxing Day *Monsters and Other Events* (10.45 am) concerns three classic terrors afflicted with commonplace problems: Count Dracula, for example, goes down with toothache. It might come off if its author, Anne Leaton, has a nice laugh touch, but the name is new to me. What surely can be counted on is Dennis Potter wandering through *A Christmas Forest* of his childhood at 2.15. Later (9.15) a programme entitled *The Genesis of Tomate* will be hard not to switch on, but as "a theological joke for Christmas" I hope it won't turn out as easy to switch off. *The Haunting of Hoban* which comes after it and appears to be true ghosts could well be more reliable though whether up to standards of *The Ghosts of Mr. K. James* (Tuesday 10.30) is another matter. But it may be: this last is Michael Raper conducting an examination. I would have thought a bit of James quite straight would have been just the ticket for the time of year. Next year, perhaps. Meantime, happy listening.

David Wade

Gardening

Transports of delight

Recently I referred to the lavish use the late Pat Moran made of hebes (shrubby veronicas) in planting the embankments and station gardens of London Transport. He also planted *Laurenciana*, *Viburnum* thus in large numbers and these are now to be seen on the London Transport network in splendid form. The really is a most useful greenery. It shrugs off air pollution, it thrives in any soil, does not object to salt laden winds in coastal areas and does quite well in shade. It can be kept pruned back if desired as an informal hedge and makes an excellent windbreak. Also it flowers gently from November to March. Just now the pink buds and white flowers are covering the bushes and the effect is charming.

It is a native of the Mediterranean region and so is not altogether happy in very cold districts. The occasional severe winter it will survive as mine did in 1962-63 but regular cold it does not like.

There are several varieties, one, "Variegatum" which has creamy yellow and green leaves is worth seeking out, but not if you live in a cold district.

Viburnum are really up in front in my list of fine flowering shrubs. Most, of course, are deciduous, they lose their leaves in winter, but even so some of them such as *Viburnum opulus* give delightful autumn colour before the leaves fall.

But the *viburnums* are good tough plants for almost any soil or situation.

One of my favourites is the good old "snowball tree" *Viburnum opulus* "sterile", which makes a bush up to 15 feet with a spread of almost as much and covers itself with round white "snowball" flower heads about four inches across.

But then I love *V. tomentosum* which makes an arresting shrub up to 10ft high and 15ft across with its branches in horizontal layers. It has what some writers term "architectural appeal". To me it is a splendid shrub for a prominent or even a solo position in the garden, where its branches festooned along their whole length with white flowers in May make an unforgettable feature. The varieties "Marie-sil" and "Lanarth" are improvements on the type plant.

No matter how many flowering shrubs you have in your garden, I beg you to plant *Viburnum carlesii* or one of its forms. It makes a shapely bush with a height and spread of up to 5ft. The white flowers are very fragrant and appear in April and May.

Before I leave the genus *viburnum* I must mention again the guelder rose, *Viburnum opulus* which in its variety "Compactum" and "Nortcutt's Variety" have lovely red berries in the autumn and in the variety "Xanthocarpum" golden yellow berries.

Curiously, the majority of our flowering trees are deciduous and only too often those that are evergreen need a neutral or acid soil—camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas, pieris, kalmias, most of the heaths and heathers, all are unhappy on a limy or chalky soil.

But the mahonias with their yellow trusses of flowers early in the year are lime tolerant evergreens, as are the varieties and hybrids of *Erica carnea*, the winter flowering heathers, rosemary, and many of the coteoneasters and the pyracanthas. They will, of course, grow well on acid soils.

Of the evergreen coteoneasters there are C. conspicuus 6ft to 8ft high with white flowers and red berries, C. dammeri a

prostrate species with white flowers and red berries, splendid as ground cover for banks or under trees or shrubs.

Another flowering evergreen that should find a place in every garden is the escallonia in one or other of its many forms. They do well in coastal districts, make beautiful hedges; they may if necessary be clipped hard after flowering and give a brilliant show of blossom the following year.

Some are not very hardy in inland districts but varieties that should be reliable anywhere and on any reasonable soil include the pale pink "Apple Blossom", "C. F. Ball", red, generally considered to be the hardiest of the hybrids and "Glory of Donard" deep carmine. They will make good specimen bushes around five feet or even a little more in height and about the same spread.

The firethorns, species and varieties of *pyracantha* again are excellent value; they are evergreen, they bear masses of white flowers in early summer and generous quantities in most years of red, orange or yellow berries in the autumn.

Pyracantha are most often seen trained against a wall or fence and very effective they can be because they can be kept within bounds and still flower and fruit well.

Some people train *pyracantha* as espaliers with layers of horizontal branches up to eight feet or more high.

They are not fussy about soil or situation, even flowering well on north or east facing walls. While it is never wise to be dogmatic about anything to do with the behaviour of birds, there does seem to be evidence that the fruits of some coteoneasters are less attractive to them than others and may be expected to last on the trees well into the winter or even to spring.

These include *Pyracantha atlantica* with scarlet fruits and its variety "Aurea" with yellow berries, and *P. crenata* which used to be

known as *P. yunnanensis* with

quantities of small red berries. They make excellent hedge plants especially *P. crenata* *rogersiana*. The spines are sharp enough to deter animals and small boys once the hedge has grown together—indeed a hedge of *pyracantha* is as good a barrier as a hawthorn hedge.

Established hedges are clipped to shape in June or July but, of course, if hard clipping is practised there will not be such a good display of flowers and fruits.

But I can hardly leave this question of evergreen flowering trees or shrubs without mentioning *Magnolia grandiflora*. It is usually grown against a wall, but even free-standing specimens survived the 1962-3 winter in midland counties of England.

In Virginia in the autumn we saw many trees of *M. grandiflora* which had survived the severe weather of last winter although many of them lost nearly all their leaves.

This splendid species will grow to 15 feet with a spread of up to 10 feet and it bears its fragrant, creamy white flowers up to eight inches across from July to September. It should be planted in full sun, and if not against a wall it should be given as sheltered a position as possible.

Roy Hay



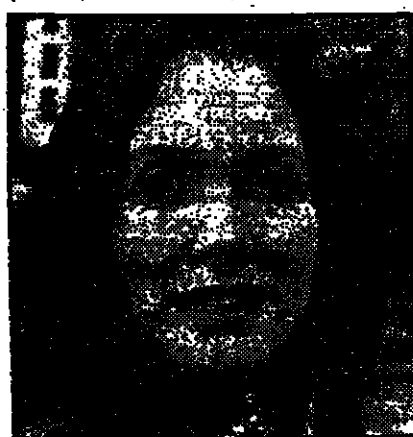
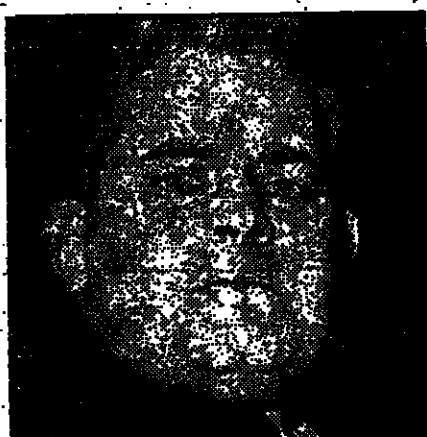
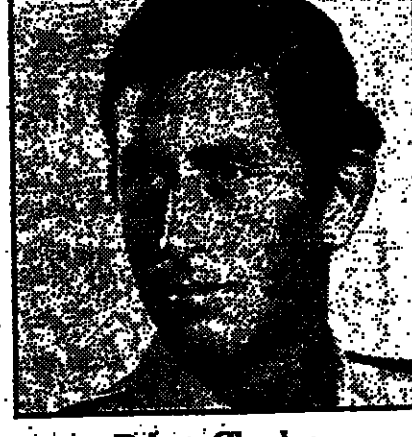
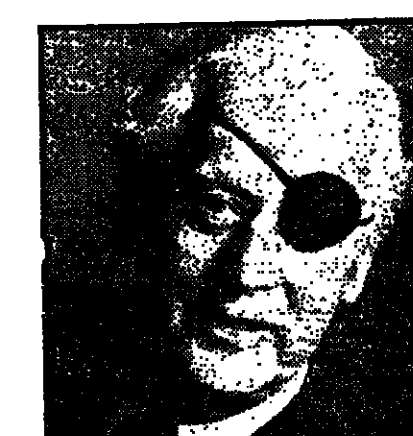
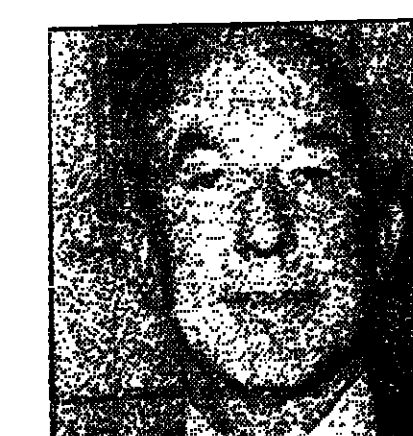
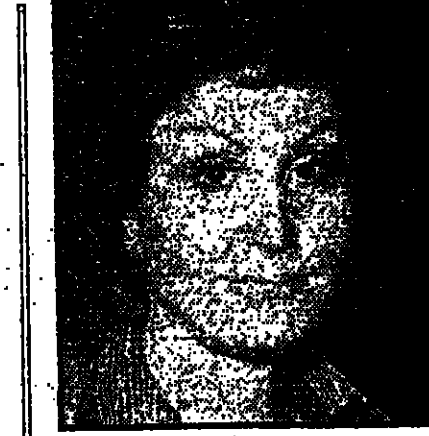
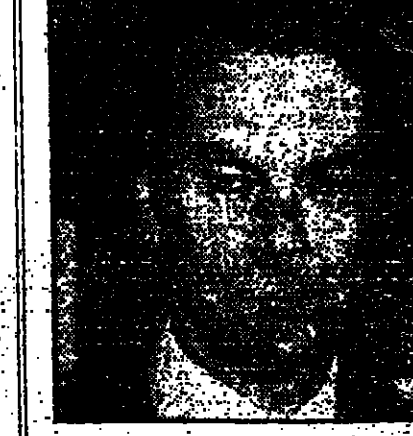
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Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

invites you
to
playaroundJoan Bakewell
BotticelliRommie Barker
Spaceman's KnockTrevor Brooking
'Pit' your witBarbara Cartland
Mime the gamePrince Charles
Kissing games?Earl of Drogheda
Gin rummyMiss World
Hates gamesTerry Wogan
Act the Finance ActShirley Williams
No party gamesLord Westwood
Guess who?R. C. Thornton
Mixed partiesMargaret Thatcher
Charades RaceHugh Scanlon
No participationAngela Rippon
Mean murderPhil Parkes
No fool heDr David Owen
Charades

One potato, two potato, three potato, four; nuts in May; apple-bobbing, a carrot for the donkey and presents hidden in a tub of bran or oats—games of my childhood were played with simple, familiar things in the days before toys without end, when the emphasis on food for games automatically linked them to the party spirit. The presents beneath the tree were mostly wrapped in plain brown paper and the hanging cards were nearly all hand-painted. There were no lights on the Christmas trees, only candles in clip-on candlesticks of painted, green metal and we could light them only for the carol that went before the present-giving—my grandmother always had a smothering cloth and white enamel pails of water at hand.

My grandfather tried to get the service on the cat's whisker radio and we caught snatches of carols which made us all sing so that it stopped mattering if the radio music faded. Christmas was a reunion of aunts, uncles, cousins, and several generations all playing games together in the large, cold house which I somehow remember with warmth, although we dressed and undressed by the kitchen range then flew through icy draughts to the cold beds, huddling under the blankets with our socks still on until the feet thawed and the head went so that we could roll off the sofa and take off the camel-hair dressing gowns.

The secret of successful party games is that they should be able to be played by people of all ages, by the disabled and the invalid. Treasure hunts, paper games, card games all leave nobody out—try racing a demon for the party card game if you have a large table and fast-playing, shouting screaming players. Consequences or head-bodies-and-legs take in all ages and a great many crippled people. The important thing is not to have many games that are too competitive among individuals so that winning becomes the least important factor. It is one thing for a group of people to win, another for one bright child to walk off too often with laurels and become hated by his peers and his elders.

The outdoors scavenger hunt is a good exercise after over-eating and need not take too long if there are only a few simple objects, a short time limit and the players go off in twos or threes. The treasure hunt that involves laying clues rather than finding specified objects is our family way of giving at least one of the presents. The first clue is passed round to everyone and it should say something like "I'm browed off in here". At the signal, everyone starts playing and most will rush to the oven or toaster where lies a clue that can be read without being moved or removed. Every one reads its message, leaving it untouched for later comers and the clues get more and more difficult towards the end so that those who set them in the first place have to start calling "hot" and "cold" and those who have finished and discovered their parcels begin to join in.

Finishing the roll on the donkey is good for half an hour and there are many variations on the theme of the old advertisement game, when brand names were cut from a montage of familiar advertisements while the players guess what is advertised. It is much harder than anyone believes to fill the gaps. Television commercial jingles



can be taped in the same way, then edited to lose the brand names, but do tape each commercial three times in succession to give guessers a chance. The same game is often played with TV soap opera theme tunes but now is rather late to prepare the tapes so this game had better wait for another day of the holidays.

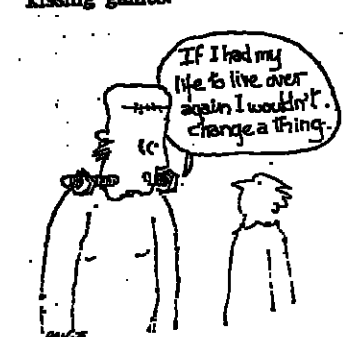
The golden rule is not to initiate party games where there are too many reluctant guests. One or two game-haters might be infected by the general fun but not more, and games rarely work in totally adult company. However, we did ask a number of well-known grown-ups to tell us whether or not they liked party games and, if so, which ones they like. Few were so positive as to hate party games. Michael Parkinson did hate them and probably still does, but Shirley Williams neither likes nor hates although she never seems to get involved in playing. Another hater is, curiously, Miss World, Mary Starin, while the contest's organizer, Mrs Julia Morley, does not give parties, which seems a little sad.

Others who neither like nor hate include Angela Rippon, who nevertheless recalls, obviously with some relish, belonging to a drama group which, at a busman's holiday since they played "the best game of charades in the world and a mean game of murder". Murder, in my teenage days, was the game which allowed two players to clasp together in a dark, confined space until one strangled the other to screaming point and it usually ended up without the screams and under but just the clinging. Not that I am accusing Angela Rippon at all. I'm sure her drama group played it very properly.

John Inman hates party games and prefers to sit and chat, while Joan Bakewell admits to being indifferent but obviously joins in any fun willingly enough since she says she does, under pressure, play charades and Botticelli when not in the company of intellectuals. Botticelli was a new name to me, but investigation yielded me a game I know very well. A small group of people mime some reasonably well-known phrase, occupation, show title or some such thing while the watchers guess. The miming

actor may reply to questions only by shaking or nodding but must say nothing. The mime can be one action for the entire word or phrase or may mime each word, each syllable, what ever might put the solution across. I advise any audience to ask if the mime represents a word, set of words or merely the first syllable of the first word. The more I recall it, the more I remember enjoying it and there are probably several ways of playing it or something like it. It is almost a form of charades, distinctly one of the favourites from many. Dr David Owen's laconic reply was the word, "charades". But he likes games.

The apparently—on television—humorous but giggling Mr Russell Harty's view is unclear since his secretary telephoned with a message that "Mr Harty really did not think it was along his line" but we are not quite clear as to whether he means party games or answering questions from *The Times* about party games. Mr Hugh Scanlon's pleasant letter had me puzzled as to whether he was pulling my leg or not when he wrote that he has very little spare time "in the type of party game" which would involve party games. He could have fooled me, but he may have had his tongue firmly in his cheek. I did write to Prince Charles but, since he is currently not giving even the briefest interviews except in the context of the silver jubilee appeal, you will have to devise your own kissing games.



Mrs Estée Lauder, the leading cosmetics and perfume, likes the same game as her husband Joseph and rather conveniently chooses one that can be played sitting down, even while still lingering at the dinner table. The guests are

all asked "If you had your life to live over..." and she finds that it recharges the conversation no end, that it induces people to relax and to start talking about much that they would have liked or would still like to do or enjoy. Over and over again, top businessmen, express a hankering for the arts and the evening becomes lively while everyone goes to know their people easily or discovers new facets in old friends.

The unbelievably active and youthful Barbara Cartland—who gets her share of teasing but really is amazing for her age—likes party games only at Christmas, preferring intimate and amusing conversation at other times which is possibly her way of falling in with John Inman's "disco-char" policy. Mrs Cartland likes one version of Botticelli, but she calls it simply "The Game". For this, the party is divided into two groups who are put into different rooms to choose their word, phrase or well-known saying. Each group then mimes its choice simultaneously in the party room and the first group to guess the other's word wins.

Terry Wogan finds himself with a mixed reaction to party games, directly dependent on his alcoholic intake at the time, but he does like charades when "played with people who don't understand the game and who select such questions as 'YACHT' or 'The Passage Act'". The people you know, Mr Wogan.

Trevor Brooking of West Ham sent autographs for my grandsons—"thank you Trevor for the party games and read to favour most types of card games. One which is good for all ages is 'Pit'. You must buy special cards for this, but for half a dozen people it is great fun."



Magnus Magnusson, who suggested we get a photograph of him from *Radio Times* because it was a good (ie flattering) one, sent in a perfect all-rounder very akin to *Call my bluff*. Each player chooses the most obscure word possible in the Shorter Oxford Dictionary (these lucky enough to have the multi-volume versions will be able to make it even more difficult). The words are announced in turn, the announcer writing down the correct meaning. The other players write down their versions of the word's meaning, whether seriously or tongue-in-cheek. Then the whole party votes on what they think is accurate as each protagonist in turn reads out all the versions, including the correct one. You give a point to whoever's version gets the highest number of votes and bonus points go to whoever actually writes down the correct definition, that bonus being

equal to the number of votes the correct dictionary definition gets. He ends his letter with "Get it" and I did but found it easier to grasp when I actually played it. We started playing at about 5.40 pm in the spirit of duty and found we were still at it more than an hour later, we being a mixed bunch of all ages which is why I call this an all-rounder. There is no shame in being wrong yet excitement in getting the points when you are right. Magnusson's family calls it "The Dictionary Game".

Phil Parkes, my favourite goalkeeper who has done as much for Queen's Park Rangers as anyone could this disastrous season and who was a stalwart in the good years, neither likes nor hates party games but says: "Games are not played at most of the parties I go to but I doubt if I would join in anyway. It's had enough making a fool of myself on Saturday afternoons without going to parties to do it." Endeavouring, though, but I must staunchly defend you and say you don't make a fool of yourself any Saturdays I watch.

Rommie Barker's game has everything. He recommends "Spaceman's Knock"—it's like Postman's Knock but you go further. "Thank you, Rommie, I have been hunking and doing on that one for three weeks now."

Denis Healey failed to fill in his form and to make a proper return, but the Opposition came up with an exciting game, yet another version of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who calls it Charades Race, but admits to knowing no proper name for it. The party divides into two teams while an umpire holds a basket full of motives, phrases and sayings etc. A member from each team takes a slip of paper from the basket simultaneously then mimes the words on it for the rest of his team to guess under the umpire's watchful eye, then another member dashes up for a slip and so it goes on until the entire team has mimed, guessed and earned a suitable reward.

I am told it gets fast and furious, leading to a lot of fun and laughter, and I believe it. Remember in name games there is no speaking, only head-shaking or nodding.

When I started this whole thing I had never intended a competition or a winner, but one letter is going to win a prize after all. It comes from Lord Westwood, whose modest entry in *Who's Who* is brief, admitting only rather vaguely to being a director of several public and private companies. Among these is Dumbos Conker Marx, the enormous toys to household and even DIY accessories concern, so he does get some games of ludo or snakes and ladders with his grandsons, as befits the chairman. He is also president of the football league and vice-president of the Football Association and he writes: "As a small child, I loathed parties but when I grew up we played a game which was very popular. We had friends in, ate too much, drank a lot and then, at the height of the evening, one person would go out of the room and the others had to guess who he or she was." We seldom guessed correctly."

Lord Westwood, there is a bonus on his way to you to help the game along. Happy Christmas everybody.

HOME & GARDEN
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THE COCKPIT OF THE WORLD

Only a few months ago the situation in the Middle East seemed almost without hope. Although negotiations about peace continued to take place, little progress was made and the requirements of the two sides seemed to be totally irreconcilable. Tomorrow Mr. Begin and President Sadat will be meeting in Cairo for serious direct talks to try to make progress towards a general settlement. Of course it is right to retain one's sense of caution about the prospects of peace. Such a negotiation, in which vital interests are at stake on both sides, cannot be easy and the suspicions of thirty years of warfare cannot readily be extinguished. Nevertheless the change in modern history. Only a very little time ago such an event would have seemed impossible.

Both the statesmen involved deserve the highest degree of credit. President Sadat has shown himself to combine imagination and courage. If he achieves a peace settlement he will have done the greatest service to the people of Israel and to the whole world. By his act of reconciliation he has become a major world statesman, generally known and generally admired.

The Middle East in recent years has been the most dangerous of the world's arenas of conflict. Just as Belgium was called the cockpit of Europe because of its strategic position between France and Germany, so the Middle East is the cockpit of the world because of its strategic significance and its overwhelming economic importance to both the super powers and to their allies. The war between Israel and her Arab neighbours has been a continuous peril in the most dangerous area of the world. It has to be remembered that the oil resources of the Middle East are one of the very few interests which might be held by either super power to justify the use of nuclear weapons.

President Sadat's initiative is not therefore only concerned with a national conflict for Egypt or with the broader conflict between the Arabs and Jews. Its success or failure could determine the whole issue of world

peace and conceivably the survival of all our nations.

The initiative was President Sadat's. It had to be his because negotiations, if it was to be made, had to start on the Arab side. There are doubts whether Mr. Begin's response would rise to the occasion. These doubts were by no means unreasonable since Mr. Begin has for a generation been the leading hawk in the politics of Israel. In fact Mr. Begin has responded in an historic manner, because of his total commitment to the cause of Zionism he is perhaps the one man who could carry Israel united through a negotiation in which the territorial concessions from the status quo have to be made by Israel. If peace is to be achieved, he is the one man who could have done it. Only Mrs. Meir was the one woman.

This is not to say that the proposals that Mr. Begin takes to Cairo go far enough to make agreement certain. A negotiation is beginning of which the outcome cannot be predicted. But Mr. Begin's proposals are a fair and proper starting point for negotiation and one which requires courage and wisdom on his side to adopt. It is not easy for a Jewish leader even to refer to the status of Jerusalem.

There are of course many Arabs who fear peace or who resent the prospect of peace without total victory. There are Palestinians who still dream of the destruction of Israel and the complete restoration of Palestinian Arabs to the lands they occupied before 1947. There are Arabs who cannot ever bring themselves to trust Israel. There are also Arabs who are influenced by fear and suspicion inside the Arab camp. The greatest of the Arab editors of the postwar world, Mr. Mohamed Helkel, has expressed his fears of a cardboard peace and those fears are no doubt widely held.

These fears and objections will never be entirely overcome. We are not going to see the Iraqis or the Libyans or the terrorist fringe of the PLO satisfied by any outcome. What is essential is that the settlement, or the momentum towards settlement, should carry the moderate Arab powers; that it should carry the Saudi Arabians and

King Hussein. It is not equally essential that it is highly desirable that in the end it should carry Syria as well. President Assad is himself a serious Arab statesman whose position must not be forgotten.

In this progress towards settlement the outside world has played a significant though secondary part; it is Israel and the Arabs who have to make peace, not the United States and the Soviet Union. President Carter's diplomacy has been very valuable. With much less power, Mr. Callaghan's diplomacy has been valuable as well and in Britain we can be well satisfied that our Prime Minister has been regarded with equal confidence by both the principal powers. The Soviet Union has played a much less helpful role as though they could never be quite sure where their true interest lay.

Everyone in Israel and everyone in Egypt should, however, understand that the great mass of world opinion feels that there is a willing forward of the cause of peace which is spontaneous, and in Britain almost universal. This is not only true of those who are of the Christian religion, but it is true that prayers for peace in the Middle East will be said by almost everyone in this country who attends a Christmas service in 1977.

The hope is not only for peace but for what can be built on the foundations of peace. The war has impoverished all the countries that have taken part in it, and has led to most acute sufferings for the Arab people of Palestine, sufferings which can only be relieved through peace, not through war. War has meant privation for the people of Israel and much continued and acute poverty for the people of Egypt. Money which should have gone on development has had to be spent on arms. At the same time the Arab world has been cut off from the skills which Israel possesses, that could have played a great part in promoting the general prosperity of the area. If peace can first be achieved, then the aim should be to use peace to relieve the suffering which still disfigures the lives of so many people in the Middle East.

THE TEST OF INTENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The most difficult phase of the Belgrade conference still lies ahead. It has now adjourned after more than eleven weeks spent debating the Helsinki agreement of 1975 on security and cooperation in Europe. Its task is to review implementation so far and to agree on new proposals for further implementation in the future. Neither task is easy. The Soviet Union does not want a final document which points a finger at deficiencies in implementing the provisions on human rights. Nor does it want new proposals which give it even more trouble than the original Helsinki document. It would probably like a minimal document saying that all thirty-five signatories met, found détente in good shape, and pledged themselves to furthering peace and goodwill. This the West cannot accept. There must be either a reasonable level of truth and substance in the document or a mere registration of the event, which would amount to an admission of failure.

At the moment everything is still open. The Russians have conceded a procedural point at least: there will be no bar to continuing to raise points on implementation in the plenary sessions after Christmas. They also conceded a point during the procedural negotiations in the summer so that the whole conference could if necessary carry on beyond the target date in mid-February. Thus all participants now face fairly basic political decisions on how much to settle for and how much to settle for.

There is no doubt that the Helsinki agreement has been valuable. It has established standards in East-West relations which have encouraged indi-

viduals to demand more rights from governments and have had some effects, though not enough, on some governments. It has also given support to people within the regimes of Eastern Europe who want more open policies towards the West. It is therefore very well worth keeping alive. The problem in Belgrade has been how to keep it alive and on what terms.

The West European delegations, including especially the British, have been criticized for being insufficiently frank and specific in condemning abuses of human rights. Unlike the Americans, they have been very reluctant to mention names and countries. Their reply is that the aim of the conference is to achieve agreement by consensus on a wide range of issues and that this will be much more difficult if the Soviet Union feels it is being put on trial. This is true as far as it goes. Merely to have traded insults would have got no one anywhere. The question is one of degree. The Americans were considerably more frank and their relations with the Soviet Union have not been noticeably impaired. Moreover, the West must be true to itself if its foreign policy is to be credible in Eastern Europe, and this means demonstrating its belief in free speech and open criticism. Probably it could have been more open without damage; it is dangerously easy for diplomats to be too diplomatic.

However, having promised better results by the quiet approach the Western delegations are now under an obligation to produce them, and if they do so they will have answered their critics. Unfortunately, it is still unclear what the Russians want. They have

confronted the conference with a very difficult challenge by arresting people who have been monitoring the Helsinki agreement in the Soviet Union. They are also threatening to try one of them, Mr. Anatoly Shcharan, for treason. If they stage trials during the conference, and if the sentences are more than nominal, it will be an act of defiance calculated to bring the conference to a jarring halt. And even if trials are held after the conference is over, the message will be much the same. So should the West demand the release of the monitoring groups as a condition of ending the conference on a reasonably positive note?

It can be argued that Helsinki is about general principles, not individual cases, and that in any case human rights sections were drawn up primarily for the benefit of Soviet dissidents but in the hope of bringing a wide range of benefits and contacts to the peoples of east and west Europe. To jeopardize all this and the broader flow of détente because of particular violations of the principles will no doubt be said to be shortsighted. Yet the Soviet Union knows very well the significance of these cases for western public opinion, so if it decides to act harshly it can scarcely do so except with the aim of inflicting severe damage on the Belgrade conference and everything it represents. This would carry a political message of significance. Thus the decision lies at the moment in Moscow. What the West can do meanwhile is press hard for a proposal it has already tabled which is intended to provide additional protection to individuals who monitor the Helsinki agreement.

As we well know, are normally not paid for their articles, which are hardly ever written for financial return. We oppose the recommendation that fees should be exacted for copying from such contributions, made expressly to disseminate knowledge, and often printed at the expense of publishing societies kept going by subscriptions from academic and professional personnel. We believe, moreover, that blanket licensing system seeking to exact such fees would probably cost more to administer than it would bring in, and that the same may be true also for other copying permitted by Sections 6 and 7 of the 1956 Copyright Act.

Yours truly,
B. Z. REINART, Dean of Arts,
J. D. PACE, Dean of Arts,
E. R. HUGHES, Dean of Medicine,
H. A. PRIME, Dean of Science and Engineering,
J. M. SAMUELS, Dean of Commerce and Social Science,
P. H. TAYLOR, Dean of Education,
J. T. ALLANSON, J. W. HILTON,
J. T. COLLIS, F. LATITE,
J. G. DAVIES, J. G. ROBB,
J. T. DAVIES, J. G. ROBB,
J. A. DUDLEY, J. T. SPENCER,
P. ECKSTEIN, J. G. TAYLOR,
J. A. GIBERT, J. G. WELLS,
J. A. GIBERT, J. G. WELLS,
The University of Birmingham,
December 12.

Licensing photocopying

From Professor B. Z. Reinart, and others
Sir, Teachers and researchers in universities and elsewhere will suffer additional expense and inconvenience if the recommendations of the Whitford Report on Copyright Law in its chapter on "reprography" (ie, photocopying) are adopted.

The Report recommends abolition of the existing right to make single photocopies (under Section 7 of the 1956 Copyright Act) and even the right to make a photocopy oneself (under Section 6) for research or private study. The Whitford Committee is aware that similar rights exist in European countries and are preserved in the Copyright Act coming into force in the USA in 1978. Nevertheless it recommends abolition of such rights in the UK in order to impose a blanket licensing system covering all user requirements for facsimile copies of copyright matter whether made in libraries or elsewhere.

Clearly this "annual fee" this licensing system would exact will be passed on to customers. Owners of photocopies, whether in libraries or private offices, would "inevitably" have to make some

sort of return of usage. The cost of collecting such statistics would be considerable, and would "inevitably" also be passed on to customers.

The Whitford recommendations are supported by arguments sometimes fallacious and often ill-founded. For example, paragraph 283 grants there is no need to license "a research worker to copy by hand part or even the whole of a work in a library, but if, to avoid the labour, he is content to pay for a photocopy, we think the price paid ought in fairness to include... also a royalty element for the copyright owner". Clearly the interests of authors and publishers remain the same, whether a copy is taken by hand or by photocopy. The special debt in photocopying, to manufacturers and owners of the machines, is already paid by purchasers of photocopies.

Among unfounded assertions is the claim that "library copying is seriously affecting subscriptions to learned journals and other specialized periodicals to the extent that such publications are no longer viable". No supporting evidence is given. We believe, moreover, that the members of this university, and from all faculties, contribute to learned and specialized journals,

The fall in public spending

From Mr. Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Many of your readers must have been surprised by your front page story on December 19 that there was "serious concern at the most senior levels within the Treasury over the mounting evidence that Government spending is again falling short of planned levels".

The cause for this concern appears to be that the shortfall in spending might produce more unemployment than is necessary. But surely the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister have frequently told us that inflation is a main cause of unemployment. It would seem to follow, therefore, that if Government spending falls short of planned levels, inflation will come down quicker and this in itself should benefit the employment situation.

The Treasury have already been congratulating themselves on the fact that the borrowing requirements have been considerably less than anticipated. Surely they should be equally pleased if public expenditure falls short of the minimum level which is once judged politically acceptable.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.

The Unification Church

From Dr. Robert P. Carroll

Sir, Mr. Dennis Orme, in his reply to Dina Pat's articles on the Unification Church, has stated that, in his view, "21 factual errors, 43 errors of distortion and 18 errors of malicious distortion" producing "a ratio of bias of one dishonesty per 2.2 sentences" (*The Times*, December 20).

Mr. Orme's list of errors is a list of the typewriter and error is denoted. Just like that! But at no point in the subsequent lengthy letter does he cite one example of such distortion or provide any rebuttal of the 72 errors. Surely *The Times* would have printed that, even if only on its "Letters to the Editor" page! Instead we are treated to a mishmash of biblical quotations and bizarre claims, some of which only seem to function as a smoke-screen for his failure to refute the errors of the original observations. Thus his letter is virtually all assertion and no argument. No, an impressive account of truth, as it is valued by the Unification Church, though it may well be a better statement of what that church believes. It is also a statement of the Unification Church's view of the world.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT P. CARROLL,
3 Southpark Terrace,
Glasgow.

Strangers on a train

From Mr. Donald S. Massie

Sir, I have been to an office party, and a jolly, friendly, happy atmosphere within, that clearly he had formed the correct opinion. Each passenger, in turn, replied in the affirmative, and by the time the train was about out of Charing Cross everybody in the crowded compartment was talking to everybody else, laughing and joking.

At Waterloo (Eastern) a young woman entered and asked each one of us what we were going to our wives, husbands, girl or boy friends for Christmas, and why.

It is too much to hope that in 1978 it might be possible to enjoy more conversation of such a pleasant and friendly nature on morning and evening commuter trains, and from work now and again without meeting stony, blank faces and a feeling that one has broken an eleventh commandment by striking up pleasant conversation in a railway compartment?

Yours faithfully,
DONALD S. MASSIE,
94 Tubbenden Lane,
Orpington, Kent.

A word in season

From Dr. Arnold Levene

Sir, In my pocket Hebrew-English dictionary I see that the popular little word *shalom* means "health, welfare, good condition, success, comfort, peace, salvation", in fact all we wish Moore Begin and Sadat. Truly a word in season.

Yours truly,
ARNOLD LEVENE,
20 Abbotwood Road,
Stratford, SW16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Future of the Moors murderers

From the Reverend A. M. Roff

Sir, Bernard Levin (December 21) writes that a number of church speak up for Christianity as it concerns Myra Hindley and Ian Brady.

Firstly, far from pretending that retribution should have no place in our penal system, Mr. Levin should recognize that it is logically impossible to remove it. If it were removed, the punishment would be rendered unjust. What could be more immoral than to inflict imprisonment on a criminal for the sake of deterring others if he does not deserve it? Or would it be justified to subject him to a compulsory attempt at reform which includes a denial of liberty unless, again, he deserves it? If he does deserve it, the claims of retribution are admitted.

Secondly, Mr. Levin himself makes clear that retribution, by itself, is not sufficient to justify the freedom of these particular prisoners. "The origins of the Moors Murderers' impulses are buried deep in the human psyche" (they are) are incapable of weighing the consequences for their victims, or indeed of understanding them." Repentance alone is therefore no guarantee that they would not do such things again.

Thirdly, therefore, the fury that would follow their release would, I submit, be fuelled for the most part not by feelings of revenge and the appropriate retribution, but by the case of permanent imprisonment, but by fear that the crimes might be committed again.

On the question of forgiveness, it is presumably the desire of every Christian that he be granted God's grace to forgive, from his heart, Myra Hindley and Ian Brady for what they have done. It does not necessarily follow that they should therefore be released from prison.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. ROFF,
Longton Vicarage,
Preston,
Lancashire,
December 21.

Banishing houseboats

From Mr. Arthur Proud

Sir, Your article "Island dwellers at last get a bridge" (*The Times*, December 20) entirely misses the whole point of the matter. This is the second time that Richmond upon Thames Council has harassed houseboat owners in this borough, the last time being in the early 70s at the Eel Pie Island moorings.

Richmond Council has pursued with considerable vindictiveness a policy of ridding the river of what it deems to be undesirable elements and installing only, expensive, suburbanite dwellings, more in keeping with their idea of what is "nice" for the area and taking no account of the wishes of the individual to live in a fashion that, in general, he chooses for himself.

Of course, the real point isn't about people at all, it's about the massive profits to be made out of

State industries' top salaries

From Mr. Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey, North West (Conservative)

Sir, Lord Boyd Carpenter (December 20) rightly condemns the disgraceful treatment by the Government of the nationalized industry board members—a 5 per cent increase in gross pay is an insult to them.

The fact is that their pay in real terms has fallen by 50 per cent over the last five years. For the British Steel Corporation, taking 1972 as the base year, the net salary in real terms of the Chairman was then £12,735. It is now £5,356. The Managing Director of Cable and Wireless—a highly successful state company with worldwide ramifications—Archie Willer, received a net salary of £5,906 in 1972, now worth £3,528 in real terms. Mr. Willer resigned in February as a protest against Government policy. He might well not have left had the Boyle proposals of a gross salary of £22,000 been implemented: net, he would just about have kept pace with inflation.

Past (and present) Socialist governments have willed on us a considerable number of nationalized industries. We have to attempt to make them successful, and obviously to succeed they must have the highest calibre of British management. Below board level they are unfettered in what they can pay. So why not at board level too? The old National Board of Prices and Incomes recommended that salaries should be left to individual boards. Admirably, the Government is a "shareholder", but shareholders in the private sector do not decide the directors' salaries, so why should the Government do so with state boards?

Private enterprise set their own board room salaries and the nationalized industries should have the freedom to do the same. Then, a well run and profitable nationalized industry, such as Cable and Wireless, could pay the rate for the job. The British Steel Corporation, with its staggering losses and daunting problems, needs dynamic and determined leadership at the top. Sadly, never was the old maxim "You get what you pay for" more applicable.

An amending Bill to remove ministerial control over nationalized industry board salaries would not only save politicians from embarrassing decisions, but would contribute to the better management of these industries.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL GRYLLS,
House of Commons,
December 22.

People's taxis

From Mr. Gabriel Roth

Sir, Christopher Walker's article on Northern Ireland (November 29, page 14) reports that shared taxis in Belfast plied from fixed points provide service at 10p and 15p, while buses, which travel less frequently, charge 13p and 26p for equivalent journeys.

It is very confidently assumed that these taxis, unlike bus services in most European cities, run at a profit, as do the jeepneys of Manila, the Dolmuş of Istanbul and many other "informal" public transport services.

Mr. Walker comments that "the authorities have come to recognize, however reluctantly, that... ('people's taxis')... are here to stay". May we not ask why Londoners and others in the UK are denied the advantages of such low fare, shared taxi services that provide frequent and speedy connections at no cost to public funds?

Yours faithfully,
G. J. ROTH,
4815 Falsone Avenue,
Cherry Chase,
Maryland 20915,
USA,
December 13.

Saving the Mostyn flagons

From Mr. Owen F. Parsons

Sir, Further to Mr. Arthur Grimwade's letter in your issue of December 21, may I add to his list the splendid pair of Elizabethan flagons that shared with St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb, Gloucestershire, now on loan to the new Diocesan Treasury in Gloucester Cathedral.

They are slightly smaller than the Gloucester ones but are very similar and of equal quality, and as one of the Gloucester flagons has also been lent to us, it now stands alongside the Rendcomb pair for comparison.

Yours faithfully,
OWEN F. PARSONS,
Honorary Curator,
The Dean and Chapter of Gloucester,
Diocesan Treasury Office,
13 College Green,
Gloucester,
December 21.

The Inverness cape

From Dom Edmund Power, OSB

Sir, Mr. Peter Such (December 15) asks about the distribution of the Inverness cape. For some years now the Berkshire lances have provided a setting for one fine specimen. It has been handed down through three generations of monks of Douai Abbey. The present wearer cuts a comfortable if eccentric figure on cool Sunday afternoon walks.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND POWER, OSB,
Douai Abbey,
Upper Woolhampton,
Reading.

From the same school

From Canon Eric James

Sir, Dudley Moore and I both went to Daresham County High School near the Cocoa Rooms. Neither of us have become bishops. Is this a record?

Yours truly,
ERIC JAMES,
Canon Missioner of St Albans,
43 Holywell Hill,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire,
December 23.

Origins of gamesmanship

From Mr. George Mikes

Sir, I have enjoyed Barry Norman's review of *Gamesmanship* in today's (*December 3*) *The Times* but should like to be permitted, for the sake of historical accuracy, to correct one of Stephen Potter's statements.

Stephen Potter states that the philosophy of *Gamesmanship* was born in 1931 at Birkbeck College when Professor Joad was partnering him in a tennis game against a pair of extremely fit and athletic undergraduates. When 40-0 down in the first game, Joad yet saved the day by volleying his return into the netting on the perimeter of the court and then saying sternly: "Kindly say clearly, please, whether the ball was in or out."

Quite a few years later I, too, played tennis with Stephen Potter

Ignoring the metre

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, The writer of your religious article on December 17 misquotes Kipling; not long ago a lady correspondent of yours, writing to protest against someone else misquoting Kipling, misquoted Kipling; a little earlier another correspondent, wanting to quote the first two lines of a Wordsworth sonnet, produced three lines of broken backed verse with a number of minor textual errors. None of this would be worth mentioning but for one significant point common to all three cases: anyone with even the vaguest idea of the metre in which these three poets were writing could detect the misquotation at once.

Your three correspondents were led astray by the fact that their teachers did not tell them. For the past 25 years at least, schoolmasters have gone to great lengths to conceal from the pupils the fact that the 3,000 years or so of poetry was written in metre. Poetry and education, unlike some other subjects which were once passed over in silence, are never mentioned even in the most prestigious schools. This is a formidable explanation: that if children are taught about metre they will recite poetry "in a staccato" style. This is universally agreed, would be so deeply undesirable that it would be better to deprive them of the greatest part of their poetical heritage. In this situation, how can we expect anyone to be able to detect the misquotation at once?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HUNT,
Old Place,
East Wing,
Lindfield,
Sussex.

Mastermind

From Sir Laurence Graffey-Smith

Sir, Thirty-six cheers for Sir David Hunt!

But he and Magnus Magnusson were both wrong about the loafah. It is the pod of a plant that grows in Egypt; it is not a marine skeleton.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE GRAFFEY-SMITH,
Broom Hill House,
Coddham,
Suffolk.

at Hurlingham. Need I say that in a game between the Founder of gamesmanship and a True Hungarian Gentleman (with food not present) all gamesmanship was strictly excluded? I asked Potter when the Philosophy was born and, indeed, he referred to that very occasion at Birkbeck College but told me a different tale.

Joad appeared in immaculate white tennis clothes but wore black socks. Whenever he moved the black socks showed like a grim warning of something macabre, like a threat of death. The two athletic youths could not take their eyes off Joad's slasher black socks and lost the game.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MIKES,
18 Dorncliffe Road, SW6,
December 3.



Personal investment and finance, page 16

UK yards facing fresh industrial unrest on Polish shipbuilding deal

By Peter Hill, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's controversial £115m shipbuilding deal with Poland faces more difficulties after industrial action taken yesterday by middle managers.

Members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Industries Management Association employed at Smith's Dock on Teeside yesterday withdrew their cooperation in the construction of two bulk carriers transferred earlier this month from the Swan Hunter yards on Tyne.

The 67 members of SAIMA at Smith's Dock, however, guaranteed of cooperation and said the reason for their action was that British Shipbuilders, the state corporation, has refused to recognize the association.

The Teeside managers action was supported by the SAIMA executive and branches in other parts of the country are expected to take similar action when they return to work after the Christmas holidays.

Earlier this week the board of British Shipbuilders considered the application for SAIMA and the Engineers and Managers Association to be accorded national negotiating rights with the state corporation. But a decision was deferred pending advice being provided by the Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service.

In a letter, headed to Mr George Parker, managing director of Smith's Dock, Mr Conrad Warriner, the Teeside branch secretary of SAIMA and the organization's senior vice-president, said the managers employed at the company's yards at South Bank and Haverton Hill considered that as a result of the decision being put off by the state board, the executive committee had "reluctantly concluded" that the managers' loyalty had been lost.

Mr Warriner said "I would add that resulting from further meetings of the SAIMA national council, the escalation of industrial action cannot be ruled out."

Last night a spokesman for British Shipbuilders said there could be no comment on the Teeside action until the position had been clarified.

Talks on Bank fringe benefits 'put in hand'

By Our Economics Staff

The Government yesterday rejected effectively all the criticisms of fringe benefits for Bank of England staff, while at the same time seeming to suggest that action is under way to deal with the criticisms.

Talks between the Bank of England and its staff have "been put in hand" over suggestions that Bank staff should pay more for some of their fringe benefits, according to a Treasury reply.

However, the Court of Directors will go on taking account of the need to compete with other financial institutions.

The fringe benefits offered by the Bank are very generous and were criticized by the Commons Select Committee on Nationalized Industries in December last year.

They include very low cost home loans, 20 year loans at a low rate of interest for the education of children in private schools, free loans to pay for season tickets and a non-contributory pension scheme.

The Commons committee accepted the case for providing many of the benefits for the Bank staff, but felt that the charges should be raised to be more in line with those which the ordinary public have to bear.

News that talks are in hand over a renegotiation came yesterday in a government reply.

The reply does not specifically state whether the talks have already begun. No response was available yesterday afternoon from the Bank on this point, nor on what changes are being sought.

From the Government statement it would seem that housing and educational loans might be affected. Some talks are thought to have taken place with no significant result.

In its reply to the committee, the Government also decried the Bank's economic modelling activities, which it says consume no more resources than using the Treasury model.

The Bank's model of the economy is simpler than that of the Treasury. The committee had expressed doubts whether it was worth having a separate section in the Bank modelling the economy.

The Government also says that attention will be paid in future to the adequacy of the Bank's capital in deciding how much is handed over to the Treasury.

Impala puts up platinum by \$18

Impala Platinum, the world's second largest platinum producer has increased its producer price from \$162 (£90) an ounce to \$180 an ounce.

The increase means that Impala has leapfrogged Rustenburg Platinum, the largest producer, which last month increased its own price from \$162 to \$175 an ounce.

The Impala increase takes its price to just above the free market level, and more than restores the cut made a little over a year when the price was reduced from \$170 an ounce.

Sir Albert Robinson, chairman of Rustenburg, said earlier this month that it was unlikely that there would be any significant increase in platinum demand in the present financial year.

Mexico suspends offer to sell America gas

Señor José López Portillo, President of Mexico, has suspended an offer to sell natural gas to America because the government refused to pay Mexico's asking price, \$1 higher per 1,000 cubic feet than United States domestic gas prices.

Mexico will not renew a memorandum of intention to

Heron stake in Henlys sold to bank for £4.2m

By Nicholas Hirst

Heron Motor group shareholders received a Christmas bonus from the Bank of Scotland yesterday, who bought Heron's stake in Henlys, the motor distributor, for £4.2m.

The next book cost of the stake to Henlys, which took its stake just over a year ago, was £1.93m, giving a profit after expenses of nearly £2.3m to Heron Corporation and adding to its existing good liquid position.

Bank of Scotland has bought the shares through its finance house subsidiary, Northwest Securities, which has been expanding its business under its "In-Bank" heading recently with extensive advertising and a push into general personal credit facilities.

Northwest Securities already has a stake of 25 per cent in Heron Group, a Lanchester-based motor distributor, and provides vehicle financing for Heron Group. The taking of the stake from Heron removes a potential predator from Henlys, which could have threatened Northwest Securities business.

Mr Gerald Ranson, chief executive of Heron Corporation which controls Heron Motor Group, said yesterday:

"We received the offer last night. Half our directors were away, but we had sufficient to come to a decision which gives a nice Christmas present to our shareholders. The price offered by Northwest Securities is substantially higher than the price we were prepared to pay for Henlys. They have produced good results but we don't think they can keep increasing profits at the same pace. It was sensible to accept."

The 150p share price came yesterday with 150p, 3p the market yesterday, an increase of 9 per cent.

Heron had been expected to bid for Henlys. Although it would have given the combined group a vast share of British Leyland sales throughout the country, franchise problems had been cleared.

Mr Ranson now says that Heron will make an acquisition in 1978 which will be more beneficial to the group than Henlys would have been.

"We will be producing very satisfactory figures for the first half of next year," he said, "and highly satisfactory results for the full 12 months."

Heron's stake in Henlys was acquired from Brown Brothers & Albany, now called Brown Brothers Corporation, controlled by Dana Corporation of the United States group.

Mr Carter's Budget expected to give further \$50,000m deficit

From Frank Vogt, Washington, Dec 23

President Carter will reaffirm his commitment to balancing the United States Federal Budget by the 1981 fiscal year when he announces his proposals for the 1979 fiscal year Budget statement.

The Budget statement has now been completed and it is already evident that another big deficit is likely.

President Carter told reporters in his home town of Plains, Georgia, that he remained determined to balance the Budget by 1981. He admitted that the task would be difficult in view of the prospect of large deficits this year and next year and in view of his plans to propose \$25,000m (£13,888m) in tax cuts.

Administration officials have indicated that the President will propose next month a Budget for the fiscal year starting

Tokyo reveals plans to raise spending

By David Blake, Economics Correspondent

Japan yesterday unveiled its Budget plans for next year which involve boosting the government deficit to a post-war record of 37 per cent of its spending. First reaction from industry and economic analysts suggested, however, that the plans, which involve a 20 per cent increase from the level set for this year, will not be enough to achieve the 7 per cent growth target to which the Japanese Government has committed itself.

Mr Toshiro Doko, president of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keizai Domo), which groups most important businesses, said that the Government was not doing enough to tackle the present recession. Economic forecasters in private institutions, including some of the leading banks, predict that Japanese growth will be only about 5 per cent during the next

fiscal year, which begins in April.

The 7 per cent growth target for next year has been set by the government in response to worries at home and mounting criticism from abroad about the country's failure to move out of recession and cut its payments surplus.

The prediction is that without stimulative action Japan will have a surplus of about \$10,000m (about £5,555.5m) this year and next, which is causing severe strain to her trading partners.

Most important expansionary component of the Budget is meant to be a sharp increase in public works. However, plans for actually spending the money seems vague, and little work seems to have been done on public projects of a large enough size to use the money.

It might thus turn out that the Government will underperform during the year its public works programme, thus having

a depressing effect on the economy. Other forms of public spending have been held down in the plans.

Because of this, most outside analysts do not merely have doubts about whether the Government can achieve its growth target on current policies but also express uncertainty about whether the target is meant seriously. Some see it as merely a gesture to appease the United States Government.

Willingness to increase the Government's dependence on borrowing represents a definite move towards a more expansionary stance, however. Japan has traditionally refused to cover more than 30 per cent of its Budget by borrowing, which acted as a brake on the use of fiscal stimulus.

The Government will sell bonds to cover its deficit, which is expected to boost the profits of the major banks. These have been suffering from poor loan demand

Resignation surprise for banks in W Germany

From Peter Norman, Bonn, Dec 23

Dr Ludwig Poullain, the chief executive of the Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, today surprised the West German banking world by announcing his immediate resignation in circumstances that can only be described as mysterious.

In a statement issued this morning, Dr Poullain declared that he had learnt of information circulating in public that could bring his integrity into question. "In concrete terms, it is because I have carried out an advisory function, which I was and am convinced did not stand in contradiction to my contract of employment (as the bank)." Dr Poullain said.

He added that he was resigning to shield the bank from damage, "because I must expect there will be a lengthy and also a public debate that would hurt the reputation of the bank and the issue is finally settled."

Dr Poullain's statement gave no indication as to the nature of the advisory function that finally led him to resign. He was a highly paid and powerful position as chief executive of Germany's third largest bank. In Düsseldorf, the bank itself also refused to comment this afternoon, pointing out that Dr Poullain had already stepped down as chief executive.

Dr Poullain gave the news of his sudden resignation in a brief three-paragraph statement, afternoon, pointing out that the bank's supervisory council added a brief, lapidary paragraph stating that the council's resignation, and that the council would discuss the consequences at its meeting in January.

Dr Poullain, who celebrated his fifty-eighth birthday today, was very much a public figure and, in the past, has shown a strong capacity to survive. He was dismissed from his post in the early 1970s when it was disclosed that the Westdeutsche Landesbank had lost DM270m (£130m) through currency speculation.

His career was untypical in that he began at the very bottom as a mere trainee in a savings bank, before climbing steadily before he could gain the status—the German equivalent of A levels—and his doctorate was honorary.

He was recently in the news because of a row with the government of the state of North Rhine Westphalia over the bank's acquisition of a building in the City of London for DLM.

But the dispute did not prevent the bank's supervisory council from renewing his contract for a further five years when it met earlier this month. Today's resignation means that German banking has another Icarus figure to add to its history of ups and downs in the 1970s. Dr Poullain's downfall has been forced into spectacular as the end of the career of Professor Wilhelm Haniel, the former chief executive of the Hessische Landesbank Girozentrale.

Mr Carter's Budget expected to give further \$50,000m deficit

October 1 that is likely to involve an estimated deficit of more than \$50,000m and total government expenditures of close to \$500,000m. The current year's Budget involves an estimated \$61,643m deficit and outlays of \$459,576m.

It appears that the calculations being made for the 1979 Budget involve estimates of real economic growth in the United States in 1978 of close to 5 per cent, with a decline in unemployment to about 6.5 per cent from 6.9 per cent today and a rate of inflation of about 6 per cent.

Many private economists believe that these economic projections are on the optimistic side.

It is likely that the Budget deficit will be greater than the Administration's estimates if the economy performs less well than the White House is forecasting, but there is also the

Union threat to Leyland pay talks

A warning that Leyland Cars cannot expect industrial peace "on the basis of broken promises and promises" came yesterday from the Association of Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Staffs, the white collar section of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

It follows the announcement that the company intends next month to press ahead with bargaining reforms for its 30,000 staff despite opposition from ACTSS.

The company's move has pleased the other three staff unions at Leyland, but angered the minority ACTSS membership. The matter could come to a head during pay talks at Jaguar, Coventry, where ACTSS is in the majority.

In a statement yesterday, ACTSS accuses Leyland Cars of going back on its promise not to introduce the reforms without the full agreement of the four staff unions.

It goes on to list other "broken promises" on pay parity, and productivity payments. It also accuses the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (APEX) of breaking its promise not to use its superior representation to override the policies of other unions.

Members of all unions must ask themselves if there is any possibility of peace in the company if smaller groups of members are not to have their point of view taken into account. ACTSS says. Actions so far "do not seem a sound basis for better future industrial relations."

ACTSS says it will demand negotiations in the present bargaining groups being properly involved, although it recognizes that certain things, such as holidays and sick pay, should be settled at national level.

"Leyland Cars needs peace and constructive relationships with its employees and the unions. That peace cannot be found on the basis of broken promises and promises."

"Unfortunately ACTSS cannot sit down and see its membership disenfranchised by either other unions or the company," the ACTSS statement adds.

\$450m oil plants for Venezuela

From Roger Viehwede, Caracas, Dec 23

Venezuela is planning to build three pre-refining plants on the Orinoco heavy oil belt as part of a project to unlock some of the 700,000 million barrels of oil that are thought to be under this region.

Together with the tar sands of the Orinoco, these plants will be one of the most important sources of oil that will be available towards the end of the century when more attractive types of crude are being discovered rapidly.

Unlike the Canadian tar sands, heavy oil from the Orinoco can be pumped out of the ground by conventional means. The oil is not only heavy—close in consistency to tar—but it also contains large amounts of sulphur and metals.

The three plants will each cost around \$150m (£77m) and will use different technologies which will lighten the heavy oils, remove much of the impurity and provide a feedstock that can be used by conventional refineries.

Petroven, Venezuela's state oil company, estimates that about 10 per cent of these reserves will be recoverable with conventional methods, pumping the oil to the surface through shallow wells. But it is working on methods of injecting steam and gases into the wells to help the oil to flow more easily.

There has been some success in injecting steam into mature fields in the Maracaibo region where the oil has progressively become heavier and more viscous. The overall recovery rate in the Orinoco could be raised to nearer 20 per cent.

Even at only a 10 per cent recovery rate, the 450,000 barrels a day of recoverable oil would mean a total of 70,000 million barrels of recoverable oil. Venezuela estimates there is sufficient oil to keep production running for more than 100 years.

At present, about 100,000 barrels a day of heavy crude is being produced from the Orinoco, but it is used mainly for making asphalt and other bituminous products and as a feedstock for petrochemicals.

Petroven says it will need a price of only \$9 a barrel against the \$12 for heavy crudes in the Middle East and other parts of Venezuela.

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Independent calculations on Brussels steel pricing

Brussels, Dec 23—A minimum import price on steel, designed to protect jobs and business in West European industry, is likely to be announced next year, a European community official predicted today.

Mr Pierre Defraigne, an assistant to EEC industry official Viscount Rienne Davignon, said a similar price for imports into the Community would be announced next year, which would be somewhat higher—would be worked out in Washington.

Mr Defraigne said he did not know what the United States price would be. The two prices would be worked out independently, he added, in accordance with the needs of American and European industry.

Both prices would be based generally on the price of production in Japan, which has the lowest steel prices in the world. The lower costs in other countries may be used—Brazil for cast iron, South Africa for ferro-manganese.

Mr Defraigne said American and European steel prices need not be the same, because the law against dumping foreign goods in the United States had rigid requirements for determining what was a fair price for imported goods. Offerings at lower prices are considered dumping.

The American law requires that 8 per cent be included in the calculation as a fair profit for the exporter. The EEC does not have that rigid requirement, so the European minimum price might be that much lower.

"The Americans will not get far away from their anti-dumping laws," he predicted, "for they will get into trouble with their own laws."

Mr Defraigne pointed out that if the American and European minimum import prices did turn out to be identical, the Europeans would be able to export as much as they wanted to to the United States. This would cause trouble with the United States steel industry, which has been trying to cut down imports from Western Europe, as well as from Japan and other areas.

Two groups in breach of EEC's rulings

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Dec 23

Brooke Bond Liebig, the British foodstuffs group, is in breach of the EEC's fair competition rules, as is Wiggins, a Dutch vegetable producer, the European Commission announced today.

Contracts concluded by Brooke Bond Liebig, Liebig's Benelux subsidiary, with three biggest Belgian retailers of foodstuffs, Inno-BM, Delhaize and Sarm-Pennery, are illegal, the Commission says.

The contracts complained of prohibiting the three big chain stores from selling any spices in their shops other than those produced by Liebig.

Mr Liebig grants the retailers and other financial concessions. The contracts are an unfair restraint on competition, the Commission says, since the three retailers account for 30 per cent of foodstuffs distribution in Belgium.

Wiggins Teape is accused of being a party to a price and quantity cartel operated with a group of French, German, Italian and Spanish producers of vegetable parchment.

The companies notified the Commission office agreement in December 1975. The ruling was given even though the agreement was dropped in September 1977, after the parties were told the Commission's view.

The parties agreed to make and sell only cassettes and recorders which conformed to the system licensed by Philips.

Any party which withdrew forfeited its licences under the patents of the others, while the remaining parties kept their rights to the withdrawing company's patents.

Swedish yard saved from bankruptcy

Sweden's Malmö-based Kockums shipyard has been able to save off bankruptcy with a government credit guarantee of 600m kronor (about £69m) for two liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers being built without charter.

In exchange for accepting the credit risk, the Government required Kockums, the last remaining privately owned shipyard, to agree to join negotiations on forming a single state-controlled national shipyard combine which would reduce drastically Swedish shipbuilding.

The government decision, intended to save some 5,000 shipyard jobs, lets Kockums continue production at the present rate until mid-February. Without government help Kockums, one of Sweden's largest and most modern yards, would have been forced into bankruptcy within a few weeks, according to industry spokesmen.

However, unless the company finds buyers for the two 500m kronor LNGs, to be completed late 1979, it will need further substantial guarantees early next year for building a third gas tanker.

How the markets moved

The Times index : 205.64 +0.63
The FT index : 483.7 +2.1

Rises	
Avon Rubber	2p to 19 1/2p
Beaumont Prop	4p to 9 1/2p
G Dev	13p to 16 1/2p
FC Finance	5p to 7 1/2p
Heids	5p to 13 1/2p
Heron	5p to 8 1/2p
Highland	2p to 14 1/2p
Humming Assoc	5p to 22 1/2p
Int Paint	3p to 6 1/2p
Ladbroke	10p to 20 1/2p

Falls	
Arden	3p to 11 1/2p
Regier-Hatt	3p to 16 1/2p
Prudential	1p to 15 1/2p
Eastlark	2p to 31 1/2p

THE POUND	
Australia \$	1.71
Austria Sch	36.50
Belgium Fr	65.25
Canada \$	2.10
Denmark Kr	11.42
Finland Mk	7.90
France Fr	9.18
Germany Dm	4.21
Greece Dr	78.00
Hongkong \$	9.00
Italy Lr	1685.00
Japan Yn	488.00
Netherlands Gld	4.29
Norway Kr	10.06
Portugal Esc	81.80
S. Africa Rd	1.91
Spain Ptas	168.00
Sweden Kr	8.85
Switzerland Fr	4.02
US \$	1.92
Yugoslavia Dnr	38.75

Bank Base Rates Table

	12p to 86 1/2p
Philips Lamps	12p to 86 1/2p
Swire Pacific	3p to 88p
Tricentral	1p to 17 1/2p
United Disc	10p to 46 1/2p

Gold gained \$2.25 an ounce to \$162.50. SDR-4 was 1.20229 on Thursday, while SDR-E was 0.64392. Commodities: The markets closed on Friday, December 23. Reports page 17

Dearer Volkswagens

Volkswagen and Audi prices in Britain are to go up by an average of 3.5 per cent from January 9, although cars already in dealers' showrooms will not be affected, the company announced yesterday. The VW Polo 900cc will cost £2,410 (£2,358), the VW

Sterling gains a little in light trading

Trading in Europe's currencies markets started thin and finished early yesterday. Sterling rose slightly to close at 64.1 per cent to its December 1977 level, up 0.1 per cent on the day. Against the dollar it gained 0.5 cents to close at \$1.9240.

The dollar generally lost some ground in Europe after its very sharp recovery on Thursday, not a significant in view of the very light market conditions.

Former Philips pact censured

Brussels, Dec 23—The EEC commission ruled today that an agreement between NV Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken and seven German companies on the manufacture and sale of video cassettes and recorders infringed the EEC's competition rules.

The companies notified the Commission office agreement in December 1975. The ruling was given even though the agreement was dropped in September 1977, after the parties were told the Commission's view.

The parties agreed to make and sell only cassettes and recorders which conformed to the system licensed by Philips.

Any party which withdrew forfeited its licences under the patents of the others, while the remaining parties kept their rights to the withdrawing company's patents.

Slump hits Mitsui

Mitsui Mining and Smelting Company of Japan, says it plans to suspend operations at its Kamoka zinc mines and zinc smelter for a few weeks in February, because of a persistent slump in demand and depressed prices.

A slump in the mines in central Japan, have deposits estimated at 42 million tonnes, and produce ore at an annual rate of 86,000 tonnes in terms of zinc content.

WELCO HOLDINGS LIMITED

Electrical Distributors and Element Manufacturers

Profits up 63 per cent

Financial Highlights	18 months to 30.6.1976	Full year to 30.6.1977
Group Turnover	7,832,944	6,724,768
Group Profit	584,744	946,424
Available for shareholders	464,616	609,622
Ordinary Dividend	22,282	33,707
Earnings per share	5.01p	8.20p

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr R. S. Langford, for the year ended 30th June 1977.

The Group's return to profitability has been maintained and improved. Profits before tax were £507,765 an increase on an annual basis of 63%.

Electrical Distribution and Manufacture - This division has produced results which compare favourably with those for the previous period. New product lines are being developed which give an all-year-round demand and incorporate an increasing number of Welco-branded small electrical appliances.

Construction and Development - The remainder of our first development was sold at a profit and we are looking for other opportunities. Our policy continues to be to confine development activities to small industrial units where there is an expressed and unsatisfied demand.

The future prospects for your Group are encouraging.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Goodwill

Much as the Government might have been embarrassed and annoyed by the success of two of its own backbenchers in forcing a successful amendment which introduced the concept of taxation indexing on to the statute book, we in Personal Investment and Finance wholeheartedly welcome what has now become known as the Rooker-Wise amendment.

The indexing of allowance in line with the increase in the retail price index has already had its debut. In the October economic package personal allowances were increased by 12 per cent raising the married man's allowance from £1,295 to £1,455 and the single person's from £845 to £945.

There is an extra reason for keeping a diary in 1978. Employees who work abroad for not less than any 30 days in a tax year qualify for the tax relief originally intended for those at the "sharp end of exporting".

The qualifying days include those ending abroad, those "substantially devoted to duties abroad, and those spent travelling for the purpose of duties abroad."

The concession will benefit many employees who may be surprised how their occasional trips abroad add up, though no way has been found of extending it to the self-employed without opening the door to abuse.

Basildon has become the first council in the land to provide its tenants with a charter which spells out the council's duties and obligations as landlords, and the rights of tenants in their homes. Hitherto municipal landlords, exempted by law from almost all obligations, have used tenancy agreements which referred exclusively to the tenants' obligations and their own rights. The National Consumer Council are so pleased with Basildon they hope to organize a conference about the charter in the new year.

If you wait to book next year's holiday until February 1, you will avoid the small print exclusion clauses which many tour operators still use on the booking forms in their 1978 brochures.

Under the Unfair Contract Terms Act, which comes into force on February 1, exclusion clauses will only work if they can be proved to be fair. It means also that you can look forward to using the clothes cleaners, the car wash, and removal men—all great users of exclusion clauses in the past—without worries in 1978.

The self-employed, by and large, do not get a good deal from the state when it comes to the provision for their retirement. The Government has so far failed to find a way of bringing them into the new earnings-related state scheme.

What's more the Inland Revenue's sneaking suspicion that the self-employed have thousands, if not millions, stashed away in undeclared profits led to a rather high contribution rate for even the state basic flat pension. The good news, announced in November, is that while the combined contributions from employees and employers to the new earnings-related scheme is to go up, costs are being reduced for the self-employed. Class 4 contributions from 6 April, 1978, will be 6 per cent not 8 per cent.

It has been so widely quoted in the past that everyone must have known that anyone could set up in life as an insurance broker without qualifications, capital or anything else other than a nameplate on the door.

So the Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act which became law at the end of July must be welcomed as a step in the right direction to imposing some form of control over an industry which, from time to time, has been noted for its excesses. However, there's still a long way further to go in the voluntary regulation of brokers, and quite a few problems have yet to be overcome.

There is even good news for grocers. Soon schoolchildren may be being more widely taught how to grose too. The EEC's first symposium on consumer education in schools, held in London last week heard that the European Commission is interested in establishing a European journal on the subject, to encourage its spread. There was even a hint that they might eventually establish a European Institute of Consumer Education to service consumer education centres in each member state.



Taxation

Humpty Dumpty calls the tune

"As for poetry, you know," said Humpty Dumpty, stretching out one of his great hands—needed for his kind of work—"I can repeat poetry as well as other folk if it comes to that."

"Oh, it needn't come to that!" Alice hastily said, hoping to keep him from beginning.

"The piece I'm going to repeat," he went on without noticing her remark, "was written entirely for your amusement."

Alice felt that in that case she really ought to listen to it, so she sat down, and said "Thank you," rather sadly.

"At Christmas, when their pockets bleed, I'll send them post to make them heed. In spring, when they are feeling lean, I'll remind them what I mean."

"In summer, when jail days are long, They'll understand that they were wrong. Just in case they all feel perky, Here's some stuff for their turkey."

"I've now assessed their Schedule D, On untaxed income. Hee! Hee! Hee! I've also done their Schedule A."

"On letting proceeds. Hip, Hurrah! Investment income surcharges, too, I promise that before I'm through. To those who've sent me no return, I'll write a letter very stern."

"I'll write in most official style, The Government waits, and so does Pile. I'll bar my robots, just you see, They'll send this answer back to me."

Some most polite, and some less so. "We cannot will not pay, you know!" "I'll send to them again to say." "Interest I'll claim, so please obey." "I'll tell them once, I'll tell them twice." They will not listen to advice. "I'll take some paper, large and white. Reduce their coding, that should bite. My heart will hop, my heart will thump. My thoughts may wander to the 'lump'." Then, collected, shocked, will give a jab. "Their homes, their kids, Inspector Grab!" "I'll say to them, I'll make it plain. I'll end those package tours to Spain. And should they try to sell their wares, Gains tax they'll pay on all their shares." "And if they give to babies at knee, I'll pounce on them with CTT. Don't let them say they'll pay in goods. I'll not accept their Christmas puds." "Ombudsmen are scant protection. When I invoke the billionth section." "I'll say it loud, I'll say it clear. I'll go and show it in their ear. 'Enough!' my friends will cry. 'Enough! We fear you have become too rough. We're sick and tired of all your gall. We'd like to see you for a fall. Our indexed pensions we will take. We're through with burnings at the stake. We're off to live in tax exile. In warmer climes where people smile."

John Whitmore

Courtesy of Lewis Carroll and prompted by the receipt last year of four Inland Revenue begging letters tucked in between the Christmas cards. This year the buff OHMS demands have been reduced to three; may the decline continue.—M.S.

Investor's week

Happier mood ahead of the holidays

Apart from one day when a deflated good-feying lifted the FT Ordinary Share Index nearly 10 points, it was the mixture as before on the London stock market this week.

The level of business remained typically low over the final run up to Christmas, but there was just enough support for share prices to hold on to some slender gains and for the index to rise 11.8 during the week to yesterday's close of 483.7.

The bulk of this rise came on Tuesday when two hours of good buying caught jobbers short of stock, and produced some exaggerated gains especially among leading industrial issues.

Ever-optimistic "bulls" briefly thought their hour had come after weeks of playing second fiddle to bearish traders. There was talk of the

index back at 500 by Christmas at the very latest by the turn of the year. But it turned out there had been little change in the fundamental mood of the market, small gains on a minimum of business were the order of the day.

Of particular help were the decisions by the numerically powerful municipal workers and the seamen to accept a 10 per cent pay rise and the decision of the TUC council, albeit by a narrow majority, not to support striking firemen.

As expected the new £800m long "tap" was oversubscribed in one day and dealers will not be surprised to learn of another stock in the near future.

In equities, distillery shares were a firm feature for most of the week. Long-standing hopes of rationalisation within the industry have supported the

a brief flurry of interest in overseas issues an odd mining shares.

The general strength of sterling, hope of cheaper money soon and a generally brighter economic outlook brought a better performance from gilt-edged stocks.

Particular help were the decisions by the numerically powerful municipal workers and the seamen to accept a 10 per cent pay rise and the decision of the TUC council, albeit by a narrow majority, not to support striking firemen.

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Unit trust performance

Medium and income funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index +207.5% rise from January 1, 1977: +30.2% average change offer to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: +32.6%; over past three years: +117.3.

Medium	A	B	Target Professional	44.1	142.1
Anderson Unit Trust	100.0	100.0	S & P Scotchbairns	44.0	139.1
Franklin Capital	90.3	341.4	Piccadilly Tech	43.8	161.0
Discretionary Fund	76.3	289.5	Barclays	43.4	170.5
Norwich Union	75.7	280.6	Scottish Equitable	42.7	121.2
Piccadilly Small Cos	70.3	66.5	M & G Sec Gen	42.6	121.6
MLA Unit Trust	61.8	—	Prudential	42.3	165.1
M & G Midland	60.9	218.0	Unitar Bank Gro	41.9	145.8
Stewart's	60.3	163.3	Allied First	41.8	122.2
Friars House M	60.3	157.4	Tyndall Canynges	41.8	175.4
Piccadilly Private	60.1	132.0	Abbey General	41.5	149.2
Gartmore British	58.4	106.1	Lloyd's Life Account	41.3	175.1
Kerr's Smaller Cos	56.8	—	Minster	41.2	97.0
Telford's	56.1	238.7	Coleridge	40.4	166.3
Pelican	55.9	176.5	Brit Life Growth	40.1	176.2
Oceanic Growth	54.7	102.9	Wielor Banked F	39.9	146.9
Handerson Inc Assets	54.6	138.6	Tyndall Capital	39.7	144.5
Trident Union	50.0	181.7	Cosmopolitan Gro	39.1	20.9
Arif	49.9	121.4	Juscor Sect Leads	38.4	87.3
Brown Shipley	49.8	184.0	Equitas	38.1	150.7
M & G Trustee	49.7	190.0	CanLife Gen	38.1	113.9
Hill Samuel Cap	49.0	216.3	Target Equity	38.1	113.9
Kleinwort Benson F	48.5	128.7	S & P UK Equity	37.9	125.4
Barclaytrust Inv	48.2	115.1	Crecent Res	36.9	167.6
Gardall	48.0	191.9	NPI Gro Accum F	36.8	135.4
Unitar General	47.1	164.7	Bishopsgate Prog F	36.4	135.4
Allied Elec & Ind	46.6	136.0	Rowan Securities	35.8	156.6
Lloyds Bank Fourth	46.4	—	Lloyds Bank First	35.4	174.1
Hambro Fund	46.1	153.8	G & A	35.3	151.5
Brit Domestic	46.1	106.0	Mutual Sec Plus	35.3	154.7
Worldwide	45.9	—	Unitar Capital	35.2	138.7
Allied Gro & Inc	45.7	139.6	Equity & Law	34.5	193.1
Schroder General	45.7	248.5	Quadrant F	34.5	107.8
Legal & General	45.5	153.5	Wickmoor	33.5	110.3
Allied Ind	45.5	132.9	Greene Winchester M	32.9	130.4
Arthurborne Giants	45.4	103.4	Glen Fund	32.5	89.4
Hill Samuel Brit	45.1	189.2	British Life	32.3	136.0
Mercury General	45.1	—	Tyndall Int Earnings	31.7	128.2
Unitar General	44.8	166.7	M & G General	31.3	106.3
Allied Capital	44.8	151.9	Pearl Unit Trust	30.9	134.3
Hill Samuel Sec	44.3	162.8	Mutual "Blue Chip"	30.7	129.3
TSB General	44.3	188.2			

Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder, Greytote Place, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1ND.

A: Change since December 9, 1976, offer to bid, income reinvested.

B: Both taken to December 12, 1974, offer to bid, income reinvested.

M: Trust valued monthly.

P: Trust valued every two weeks.

An inflation-proof Santa?...

My belief in Father Christmas was cruelly shattered around the age of seven by a worldly-wise schoolfriend. I remember my heartfelt defence of his good name to this day. "There must be a Father Christmas," I reasoned, "because no one else could afford to buy me all these presents."

Today, youngsters have a better grasp—literally as well as metaphorically—of the material facts of life. Father Christmas should perhaps by now have sunk beneath the weight of inflation and leaden television impersonations.

But not so. His annual West End appearance still draws the crowds. The Post Office still handles thousands of letters a year addressed to Helmsland, the North Pole and the like.

But Santa must have been updated over the years. Presumably girls hang out their rights now, instead of a solitary stocking. And is it quite covers instead of pillow cases?

But how do you explain his entrance at midnight when most modern houses are built without chimneys? Come to

think of it, what suburban child is going to believe that even if there was a chimney Santa would be allowed down it—to put his great sooty footmarks all over the Dorton three piece and the wall to wall?

And in a world full of double yellow lines, where do you leave the reindeer? Teheran to the nearest parking meter?

I can see a credibility gap yawning. There certainly seems to be rather less of Father Christmas than there was a decade or so ago. Then, practically every West End store boasted its Santa.

Selfridges still has the original variety—the store is reputed to have had the same gentleman doing it for 30 years. He is the trad Santa, sitting in his groto and bouncing little children on his knee.

With all the Middle Eastern custom in Oxford Street these days it is surprising that no one has considered replacing him with the Three Wise Men.

Harrods has a Father Christmas—three in fact. He (they) takes turns perambulating around the toy department, handing out balloons and a peck

on the cheek to the progeny of passing motorists.

But there is clearly more to the job than the possession of a decent pot belly and a bag of cotton wool. The Selfridges Santa, I am reliably informed, averages 6,000 little visitors a day. As that stretches from opening time to seven in the evening I calculate that he deals with 10 children a minute.

It is hardly surprising that the poor chap needs an 11-month holiday when he packs it in.

Clearly the unions are falling down on their responsibilities. Perhaps Natasha should ask the Government to institute job creation programmes to iron out seasonal fluctuations and provide merriment and mistletoe all the year round.

And where do you find these benevolent gentlemen, anyway? Most stores, hosieries and companies seem to use an employee. They pick some lucky chap who loves having his whiskers tweaked and adores grappling with ingenious questions from five-year-old cynics.

But, having caught your Santa, you will have no trouble kitting him out. What is more,

you will stumble on a fact of great sartorial significance.

Father Christmas is different from Santa Claus.

The former wears the single long red robe and hood, with whiskers, of course. Santa is altogether nattier. He has short jacket, detachable cap, tunic, knee breeches and long leather boots.

Harrods' old Father Christmas outfits for £35. Moss Brothers, or any theatrical costumers, will hire out both outfits.

This year the former charged £12.50 for a Father Christmas, £15 for a Santa Claus—for three days plus VAT, of course. The do-it-yourself Santa seems to be all the rage, to judge by the frantic sounds coming from the other end of the phone.

And if by chance some nice Santa finds himself all dressed up with nowhere to go tonight he is welcome to drop in on me in rural Kent. Or should I say drop down?—I've just had my chimney swept.

Margaret Drummond

Insurance

... and myths to be exploded

This Christmas thousands of children will learn something about myths, as they discover how Santa Claus manages to fill their stockings. Thousands of "grown-ups", however, will continue to believe in certain myths connected with insurance. Here are some of them.

Normally, if valuable items are insured for specific figures, the amount involved will not necessarily be paid in the event of total loss. Unless the insurer has previously agreed, the individual values (for which he may have asked to see a receipt or professional valuation), the figures which one selects are simply the upper limit of cover and claims will be based on market values immediately before the loss or damage.

When a life policy is being used to repay a loan, the detailed calculations of cost look impressive. But they are likely to be wrong within a matter of months. Mortgage rates do not stand still; nor is it safe to assume that the tax relief on the life premiums will remain at the same level. At present, it is half the basic rate of tax, so that the tax relief is reduced if there is a reduction in basic rate tax.

To the future, premiums will be paid to life offices on a net basis. A fixed percentage deduction will be introduced, but we do not yet know what the figure will be.

A family man with reasonable earnings and heavy family commitments may arrange "family income benefits" insurance to provide an income for the family in the event of his premature death, until, say, he would have reached the age of 65. Also, he may arrange permanent health insurance (perhaps for a similar period) to pay an income if he should be totally disabled and thus unable to work.

The former income will be tax-free, but not the latter. Once the income has been received for a full fiscal year, it will be taxable. What is more, although intended to replace earnings, the benefits count as investment income and thus will be subject to the tax investment income surcharge.

Various bonds, based on single-premium life assurance policies, stress that the quoted return is completely free from tax for a basic rate taxpayer. What needs to be remembered is that the "taxable" gain at the end of the day (divided by the number of full years for which the bond has been in force) may push one into a higher tax bracket with the result that tax will be payable, even though earnings and investment income may not be high enough to attract anything more than basic rate tax.

A particular problem for an elderly person taking an income

bond (and these bonds appear to be popular with the elderly) is that, dependent on circumstances, the income from the bond may result in a reduction in the age allowance, with the result that the net return from the bond will be lower than that quoted for a basic rate taxpayer.

Motor insurance has plenty of myths. Some motorists, for instance, still feel that it is a no-blame discount, and that the no-claim discount should not be forfeited where they were not responsible for the loss or damage. As a crumb of comfort, I can add that, provided you can prove to your insurers that, in the absence of their knock-for-knock agreement, they would have been able to make a full recovery from the other motorist or his insurers, the discount may be allowed in full at re-avail.

John Drummond



Myth or reality—many merry Santas thronging London streets. Where will they be tonight?

Ghana, Venice, Banking, Timber, Conferences, Buses, Milan, Pensions, Burnley, Bond Street, Quebec, Senegal, Health, Aluminium, Brazil, Scotland, Nigeria, Swimming Pools, Thanet, Films, Water Resources, Bloodstock, Travel, Posidonia, Antiques, Mexico, World Population, Paris, Coffee, Hong Kong, Invisibles, Gold, Air Conditioning, Oman, World Wildlife, Sugar, Tunisia, Watches, Oil, Maryland, Cocoa, France, Gibraltar, Commercial Vehicles, Thamesdown, Property, Beirut, Sweden, New Covent Garden, Christmas Books, Sheffield, China, Morocco, Farnborough, Bahrain, Brighton, Cowes Week, Singapore, Summer Drinking, Human Rights, Energy, Credit, Bolton, India, Calculators, Rushmoor, Venezuela, West Norfolk, Radio, Cars, Estate Management, Malta, Insurance, Word Processing, Madrid, Japan, Finland, Copper, Algeria, Wall St, Industrial Heating, Iran, Aerospace Electronics, Derbyshire...

David Mott

The Times Special Reports.

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter.



هذا ان الاصل

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Out like a lamb before the holiday

Predictably, business was at a minimum before the stock market went home for Christmas.

But business news on the industrial sector from the weekend, the business and the bakery workers sent dealers home in good heart and the FT Index closed 2.1 better at 433.7 leaving it 11.8 up over the week.

Where changed the industrial leaders edged ahead by a few pence while elsewhere more movement was inspired by favourable or adverse comments. In the gilt-edged market centred on the new long 'cap' which managed to finish with an eighth premium after an early small discount on the 15 partly paid price.

Share prices were one eighth or so higher where changes were in the lack of business news have shown a good deal of firmness this week and dealers were saying yesterday that the market now looks in better shape to start a stronger trend in the New Year.

Industrial leaders edging a penny of two firms included ICI at 358p, Glaxo 590p, BAT Industries 298p, Bectham 683p and Unilever at 552p.

After a favourable mention Woodworth rose 11p to 644p and Axa Rubber, an old speculative favourite, ended a point better at 190p. But for the reverse reason Briston slipped 3p to 111p.

Among takeover stocks the long running G Dew saga was resolved when it was learned that the company had received an offer worth 170p worth from the Dutch Volker Group. Dew's shares closed 13p better

at 169p compared with a pre-suspension price of 156p. Another long running tale to be resolved concerned motor group Henschel which jumped 9p to 136p after a profits forecast and news that Henschel Motor had sold its 25 per cent stake in what was reported to be a 'lucrative' price. Henschel's shares jumped 5p to 81p.

Whisky shares managed to rally from early profit taking to continue their recent good run. Distillers, at the centre of the pricing controversy with the EEC, closed four pence to the good at 175p while another to rise a few pence was Invergordon at 100p.

Following its annual report Trafalgar House gained 4p to 156p while Forrester at 120p gained another 6p on top of the rise which came the previous evening in front of a yesterday's profits announcement. But Crested shed another 4p to 25p still depressed by the profits setback reported on Thursday.

In plantations Assam Frontier soared from 305p to 420p on hopes of a new bidder now that the Wrengate offer has lapsed. Earlier reports suggested that a group of Indian businessmen might be planning a move.

In front of the marketing agreement with BNOF BP managed to edge ahead a couple of pence to 864p. After a stronger metal price gains among gold shares ranged up to 15p.

Food shares to make progress included National Foods at 118p and Sainsbury at 200p. Both Rank Hovis at 47p and Spillers at 30p edged ahead after news of a settlement in the bakery dispute, but General Accident at 240p were little moved by the decision to raise motor premiums.

Banks, insurances and properties all showed little significant movement. Elsewhere, Rascal rose 2p to 204p and Courtwards were a point firmer at 116p.

Limited interest in properties put 4p on Beaumont at 32p and property gains came from Land Securities at 218p and Stock Conversion at 256p. FC Finance rose 5p to 70p and Ladbroke was a strong spot at 207p, up 10p.

Latest results

Company	Share	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
ICI	358p	0.55(0.45)	9.31(8.53)	0.33(0.18)	22/2	(1.7)
Glaxo	590p	0.55(0.45)	9.31(8.53)	0.33(0.18)	22/2	(1.7)
BAT	298p	0.55(0.45)	9.31(8.53)	0.33(0.18)	22/2	(1.7)
Bectham	683p	0.55(0.45)	9.31(8.53)	0.33(0.18)	22/2	(1.7)
Unilever	552p	0.55(0.45)	9.31(8.53)	0.33(0.18)	22/2	(1.7)

Dividends in this table are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.15. Profits are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.15. Profits are shown net of tax on pence per share.

Forminster on way to record year

Forminster, one of the main suppliers of ladies outerwear to Lendwood Mail Order Stores, was one of the biggest movers in the quiet stock market yesterday. On news of a near quarter rise in first half profits the shares rose 5p to 120p. This followed a strong rise in the week earlier in the year.

And chairman Mr T. C. Rowley is confident that encouraging upward trend in trading, evident in the first half, should give the group a boost at the year end. Profits there are expected to beat the £1m made last year.

In the six months to October 31, Forminster's sales rose 31 per cent on 9,340p while ladies and children's outerwear clothing, turned in a pre-tax profit of £564,000 against a previous £455,000 on turnover up 17 per cent from £4,79m to £5,64m. Sales account a stepped-up £2,500,000 from £2,200,000 in the same period last year.

Profits at Forminster have not been as good as last year's but growth has continued since the group became public in 1971. Pre-tax profit then was only £125,000 on turnover of £1,250,000. The chairman's profit forecast for the current year is out to be conservative. Forminster could well beat the 1971 turnover figure with this year's profits.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	7 1/2%
Barclays Bank	7 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	7 1/2%
First London Secs	7 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	7 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	7 1/2%
London Mercantile	7 1/2%
Midland Bank	6 1/2%
Nat Westminster	7 1/2%
Rossminster Acc's	7 1/2%
Shenley Trust	9 1/2%
Williams and Glyn's	7 1/2%

7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 4 1/2% up to £25,000 5 1/2%.

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50-51 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8HP Tel: 01 553 2651
The Over-the-Counter Market

1976/77	High	Low	Company	Last Price	Chg	Gross Div	Yld %	P/E
44	27	Airsprung Ord	41	-	4.2	10.0	7.8	
150	100	Airsprung 181	CULS	148	-	18.4	12.5	
39	25	Armstrong & Rhodes	36	-	3.3	9.2	15.3	
145	105	Bardon Hill	143	-	12.0	8.4	9.8	
102	48	Deborah and	39	-	5.1	3.2	8.0	
216	104	Deborah 177	CULS	211	-	17.5	8.0	
147	120	Frederick Parker	143	-	11.5	8.0	6.9	
58	36	Jackson Group	50	-	5.0	10.0	5.9	
114	55	James Burroughs	109	+1	6.0	3.5	10.0	
340	138	Robert Jenkins	33	-	27.0	8.5	5.3	
8	8	Twinkl Ord	14	-	-	-	-	
77	57	Twinkl 12	UTS	72	-	12.0	16.7	
70	51	Unilever Holdings	70	-	7.0	10.0	8.7	
87	65	Walter Alexander	86	-	6.4	7.4	6.4	

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£7m offer for G Dew as mystery bidder emerges as Dutch group

By Alison Mitchell

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Profitable survivor of IOS failure

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Briefly

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Haw Par Bros scrap dormant subsidiaries

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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Unit Name	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	9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Racing

By Michael See

good flat handicapper, Rare Gold who ran away with the Irish Lifford colts in 1961, and who did not enjoy the clearest of runs when fourth to Meladon at Fairyhouse.

Runner-up in the Benson Hedges hurdle was Double Defiance who has not won a race of any sort since the Guinness Hurdle at Galway in the summer of 1975. In the intervening years he has

7-2 Wagoner, 2-1 Peppie Wonder, 0-2 The Head.
 (Aug. 8-1 Warwick Flyer, Four Yells, 12-1 Deep Mystery, 20-1 others.

Wolverhampton selections
 By Our Racing Staff
 12.30 Samscrit. 1.0 Hill Top. 1.30 Co-partner. 2.0 King Commander.
 2.30 Foxxy Fanny. 3.0 Winscombe.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1010 spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophylls was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of the sample.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.

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THE TIMES

The Middle East
peace talks:
Details, page 4

Britain's 1978 surplus 'will be bigger than W German'

Britain faces a bright economic year in 1978, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said yesterday. An expected balance of payments surplus of £1,800m should be better than West Germany's; real personal income should grow by 2½ per cent; and unemployment should level off by mid-1978.

OECD sees risks in European recession

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent
Next year is likely to be much better for the British economy than 1977, according to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). But the British improvement will take place against a deepening recession in the rest of Europe, which poses a threat to the economic well-being of the whole world, including the United Kingdom.
In the latest issue of its *Economic Outlook* the OECD warns governments of the risk that by the second half of next year the industrial nations of the world may be on a downward spiral once again.
Economic growth in the second half of 1978 will be well below the level needed to stop unemployment rising, the organization says. The total of world unemployment might rise to 17 million by next year, giving an unemployment rate higher than the previous post-war record of 1975.
The organization wants governments to begin a co-ordinated programme of expanding economies through tax cuts designed to boost demand. The most crucial element in the strategy would be the agreement of Germany, Japan and the United States.
The Americans have promised tax cuts and the Japanese are expected to do something. "Both major powers at the OECD doubt whether it will be enough. But the Germans have so far said that they do not accept the case for a further increase."

Unless the agreement of all Western countries running large surpluses can be obtained, the strategy may be impossible to implement. That is because other countries fear that expansionist demand when they are still in deficit or only small surplus might lead to renewed monetary difficulties.
The continuing benefit of North Sea oil will mean that next year Britain should have a surplus of £3,400m (£1,800m), which is expected to be even larger than that of West Germany. Other elements in the British economy are also expected to look much healthier.
Economic growth in real terms is predicted to be 3 per cent, without taking into account the likelihood of tax cuts. Mr Healey's spring Budget to stimulate the economy.
There is expected to be a 2½ per cent growth in real personal disposable income, which should lead to an increase in consumption of about 3½ per cent.
Most of the increase in living standards is forecast to occur in the first half of the year. That is because earnings are assumed to rise by 14 per cent during the present wage round, which will give an immediate boost to many people's living standards.
By the second half of next year, however, the higher wages will start coming through in the form of higher prices, pushing inflation up from an annual rate of 8½ per cent in the first half of 1978 to 10½ per cent in the second half.
The OECD says that the growth is expected to lead to an 11½ per cent increase in investment by next year. That, however, will not bring down unemployment significantly. It is expected to go on rising until the middle of next year, when it is expected to level off.
All those forecasts are based on the assumption that nothing new is done to stimulate the economy, so the likelihood is that the real pattern of events will show slightly faster growth later in the year because of the effect of cuts in income tax next April.
The difficulty in forecasting what will really happen to the world economy is much more marked in the rest of Europe, the United States and Japan, however. On the basis of present policies, growth in Europe is expected to fall to an annual rate of 2½ per cent by the second half of next year, and to fall even more in the first half of 1979.
In Germany it is expected to be only 3 per cent in the second half of 1978. Growth rates as low as that will not only mean a short-term rise in unemployment but will also ensure that markets get worse because the lack of demand will mean that new investment is postponed, which in turn reduces demand.
The OECD says the threat is particularly potent in Europe, but adds that on present policies it could spread to Japan and the United States.
While recognizing that it is now too late to have any impact on the first half of next year, the OECD argues that governments can prevent output from falling by stimulating investment and have little effect on the rate of inflation. On present policies the organization predicts that inflation will fall to 7 per cent in the industrial world as a whole, compared with 8 per cent this year. In Europe it predicts an inflation rate of 8½ per cent.

National Land Fund cash may be used to rescue treasures for Britain

By George Clark
Political Correspondent
A new method of providing financial aid to rescue the nation's historic buildings and artistic treasures is expected to be recommended to the government within the next few weeks by the House of Commons Select Committee on Public Expenditure, which has been examining the operation of the National Land Fund.
The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Arthur Jones, Conservative MP for Brentnall, has not yet completed its inquiries, but there is a strong belief among those who have given evidence that it will recommend the allocation of the remaining part of the National Land Fund, now put at £18,500,000 to a new national heritage council or commission.
It would be independent of Treasury control and have the right to decide whether money should be made available when there is a threat of treasures being sold to overseas buyers.
The use of the fund to retain in Britain treasures that are under threat of being exported because of the subject of controversy about a year ago when the Mermaid Tavern and its contents came on to the market.
It has been argued before the committee that national treasures valued at £2,000,000 are threatened by the operation of capital transfer tax and that a new rescue fund, with special powers of investment, is urgently needed.
Essentially the argument is about the status of the National Land Fund and whether it should be consti-

Mr Vance likely to join negotiations in new year between Israeli and Egyptian ministers Palestinian state issue proves stumbling block at Ismailia

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent
Negotiations between Egypt and Israel on an overall peace settlement in the Middle East are to continue early in the new year, despite widespread disappointment in both countries that the historic meeting in Ismailia on Christmas Day between President Sadat and Mr Menachem Begin failed to produce full agreement.
The principal difference between the two leaders was over the future of the Palestinians. President Sadat has insisted that a Palestinian state should be established on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Mr Begin proposed self-rule for the people of Samaria and Judea for a period of 20 years before a decision is taken on the future of the West Bank, and rejected the idea of a separate state.
Negotiations will now proceed in two ministerial committees. A political committee, headed by Mr Moshe Dayan and Mr Muhammad Kamal, the Israeli and Egyptian Foreign Ministers, will meet in Jerusalem, and a military committee, led by the two defence ministers, will meet in Cairo to discuss the various issues raised at Ismailia. They are expected to start work next month but the exact date is not yet clear.
It seems likely that the United States will participate in these committees, in order to help agreement forward. President Carter, who received a telephone call from Mr Begin after the Ismailia meeting, said that the Israeli Prime Minister had told him that he and President Sadat would like Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, to join in the work. Mr Carter said he did not know yet whether Mr Vance would attend.
Mr Begin also telephoned to Mr Callaghan, who was spending Christmas at Chequers, to give him a report on the talks, and Mr Callaghan later called President Sadat.
Despite their basic disagreement on the Palestinian issue, which led them to make individual statements rather than a joint declaration, both President Sadat and Mr Begin gave

the impression at their Ismailia press conference, at the end of their talks on Monday morning, that progress was made on other matters of importance in a Middle East settlement, notably Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.
Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: President Sadat was seen here to have got the best out of the Ismailia summit. Mr Begin met almost fully the Egyptian demands for the return of the Sinai peninsula and made a substantial concession regarding the Palestinian Arabs by offering administrative autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
But Mr Sadat, unless he made some secret concession, has not yielded an inch on his initial demand for a total evacuation on all fronts and self-determination for the Palestinians.
The Israeli Cabinet reviewed the summit at a four-hour meeting in Jerusalem, the most striking thing about the meeting was the mysterious absence of Mr Dayan. Mr Begin and other officials refuse to tell

reporters where Mr Dayan was, but one Cabinet source said the ministers themselves were informed confidentially of the reason for his absence.
A close aide to Mr Dayan said that the Foreign Minister was in Israel and derided speculation of a falling-out with the Prime Minister. [There are unconfirmed reports, according to Agence France-Presse, that Mr Dayan has gone to hold talks with King Hussein of Jordan.]
Mr Begin and Mr Dayan gave contradictory explanations of the summit meeting when they returned from Ismailia on Monday. A beaming Prime Minister told a welcoming party at Ben-Gurion airport: "If you've prayed for our success, your prayers have been answered." However, Mr Dayan said glumly: "There are many obstacles, and I'm not sure they can be bridged."
The statements are typical of the divergent tones taken by the two men since President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last month. Mr Begin has been highly optimistic and Mr Dayan dubious.
Mr Ezer Weizman, the third minister in the Israeli cabinet, was among the optimists. He told a Likud party caucus in Jerusalem yesterday that 1978 would be "the year of peace". He believed Egypt was ready to move towards peace, and problems could be overcome in the political and military committees.
Mr Weizman, who is Israel's Defence Minister, reported to the caucus that Mr Begin had told the Egyptians he could be flexible concerning Sinai but his stand concerning the West Bank was final.
Mr Begin said he will make public full details of his peace proposals tomorrow in the Knesset. He appeared confident of a parliamentary majority for his proposals, notwithstanding criticism within his own party, and he is waiting coalition discipline to enable deputies to vote according to individual conscience.
Reactions to Mr Begin's peace moves have cut across party lines. Continued on page 4, col 7

Legacy of Dickens's snowy childhood

By Stewart Tendler
Now that copies of Bing Crosby's record have been returned to the BBC library for another year it can be disclosed that a white Christmas is something of a myth. According to one of Britain's leading climatologists, the childhood of Charles Dickens is to blame.
Records at the Meteorological Office in London show that there have been only two genuine white Christmases this century. In 1906, 1917, 1927, 1936 and 1968 snow fell on Christmas Eve or Boxing Day but only in 1938 and 1970 did snow fall "deep and crisp and even" on Christmas Day.
This year proved an exception. Hopes were dashed on Friday when Kew recorded a record temperature of 62°F and over the rest of the holiday the daytime temperature stayed in the forties. The only white stuff around was the artificial kind pelting down in the middle of television shows recorded weeks before.
Mr Hubert Lamb, head of the climatic research unit at East Anglia University, says his researches into weather records show that in the first eight years of Dickens's life there was a white Christmas every year with either snow or a white hoar frost. "The idea of a white Christmas possibly owes a good deal to Charles Dickens and *A Christmas Carol*," Mr Lamb says.
He argues that Dickens drew on his own experiences and the recent history of his times. Between 1550 and 1700 Britain suffered from a little ice age, which was followed by an unsettled period. The 40 years before the writer's birth in 1812 experienced one of the most disturbed parts of the period.
Mr Lamb adds: "The idea of a white Christmas is fairly mythical. Christmas Day and the days either side have a rather good sunshine record. The most characteristic picture is of a rather quiet, sunny period between more disturbed winter weather."
"The last 10 days of December and the first five or six days of the new year seem on the whole to include the variations that characterize the winter period as a whole."
It may be a consolation that snow and sleet were falling in many parts of Britain last night.
Weather forecast, page 2



Night on the Thames, where the river police maintain their permanent watch while Londoners enjoy the peace of Christmas (news feature, page 2).

10p a lb rise forecast for butter

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent
The price of butter will go up by more than 3p a pound if EEC proposals on farm prices are approved, according to the Consumers' Association.
That would be in addition to a 6½p a pound increase in farm support prices which comes into force in four days' time, completing the United Kingdom's transition to European food prices.
By next autumn, the association estimates, butter will cost British shoppers 62p a pound, even if the special United Kingdom subsidy continues at the present level.
The association has called for a freeze on the prices of butter, milk, beef, sugar and cereals.

Ballot 'may be way out of firemen's strike'

The local authority employers think that a ballot of the striking firemen may be a way out of the impasse. They are also hoping that reflection over the Christmas holiday will have prompted a change of heart by the firemen, although that was being discounted by senior Fire Brigades Union officials last night. The union executive will meet in London tomorrow for the first time since their appeal for help from the rest of the Labour movement to force a return to work against the Government's 10 per cent pay policy split the TUC. The firemen's hard line to get them back to work eventually. Page 2

New Soviet missile worries US

From David Cross
Washington, Dec 27
The Soviet Union has begun to deploy a mobile intermediate-range missile, the SS20, which could conceivably be modified to reach United States territory, the Defence Department disclosed today.
The Pentagon has been closely watching the development of the SS20, which in its basic form is a two-stage rocket with a range of about 3,000 miles. Because it is a variant of the SS16, an intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of some 6,000 miles, it could be adapted by adding a third stage to cover a similar distance.
A spokesman for the Defence Department said, however, there was no indication that the newly deployed SS20s were equipped with third-stage rockets. The deployment of the missiles, which can be moved by road or rail, has been discussed at recent Nato meetings, he added.
He declined to specify how many missiles had been deployed.
In another development, President Carter is reported to have turned down the Pentagon's request for full-scale development funds for a new American mobile missile system to replace existing stationary intercontinental ballistic missiles. According to reports in *The New York Times*, confirmed by officials here, the decision on the so-called MX missiles was taken by Mr Carter principally because he felt it could jeopardize the ongoing arms limit negotiations with the Soviet Union.
The President also wanted to see the results of further research into the proposed new system, by which a missile could be fired from various points along an underground tunnel.

Builders to seek substantial rises

Construction union leaders have given notice of a claim for "substantial" pay increases a shorter working week, longer holidays and other fringe benefit improvements. The employers have shown willingness to listen to the wage demand but have said that the industry cannot afford longer work or longer holidays. Page 2

French political violence flares

The Christmas holiday in France was marked by political violence, the most serious being a shooting attack on the country home of Mr Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, and the destruction of the Paris flat of a senior judge. Page 3

Boy of 11 killed by guerrillas

A white boy of 11 was killed in an ambush by black nationalists in the Rhodesian white farming district of Centenary. Altogether 66 people have been killed in the Rhodesian war since Christmas Eve, including 52 guerrillas. Page 3

Guarantee code suggested

A general code of practice governing guarantees on consumer goods is suggested by Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading. Almost 1,400 complaints about guarantees were received in the first six months of 1977. Page 3

Big Irish prize for England

The English-trained Decent Fellow won the valuable Irish Sweeps Riddle at Leopardstown yesterday. He beat 17 home-trained rivals to record the seventh English win in the race since its inception in 1969. Page 14

Another Georgia official given

From David Cross
Washington, Dec 27
President Carter today named a successor to his close friend and adviser, Mr Bert Lance, the former Director of the Office of Management and Budget, who left Washington under a cloud three months ago.
He is Mr James McIntyre, aged 37, a budget director for a succession of Georgia governors. Mr Carter was governor. A lawyer, he was appointed deputy to Mr Lance last February and has been acting director since Mr Lance's departure.

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12 people hurt in 30-car motorway crash

Twelve people were injured yesterday when 30 cars were involved in a collision on the southbound carriageway of the M1 just north of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.
The road was wet and slippery and traffic was heavy as Christmas holidaymakers returned home. The two outside lanes of the carriageway were blocked by the crash, and a five-mile queue of vehicles quickly formed. A 50 mph speed limit was imposed while the jam was cleared.
Only two of the injured were in a serious condition, the police said. All 12 had been taken to Northampton General Hospital.
Heavy traffic.

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HOME NEWS

Ballot suggested by employers as one way out of impasse in firemen's 44-day official strike

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the Fire Brigades Union are to gather in London tomorrow to assess the impact of their official strike, now well into its seventh week. The employers hope that reflection over the Christmas holiday will have prompted a change of heart, but that was being discounted by senior union officials last night.

The union executive will be meeting for the first time since its appeal for help from the rest of the Labour movement in a wages offensive against the Government's 10 per cent pay policy split the TUC down the middle a week ago. Ministers are relying on the TUC's refusal to support the firemen's hard line to get them back to work eventually.

Mr Brian Rusbridge, secretary of the employers' side, said last night: "I do not want it to be thought that anybody is trying to force a process of attrition. Nobody wants to see that. What we want to see is the fire service back in full commission again, and the employers genuinely believe the offer they have made is an honourable way to achieve this."

The employers think that a ballot of the striking firemen

"may be one way" of finding a way out of the impasse that threatens to set a new postwar record for an official strike in the public service.

"We feel that a lot of firemen on the ground would be quite ready to take the offer," Mr Rusbridge added. The local authorities have offered the firemen 10 per cent immediately, a reduction of hours from 48 to 42 a week from next autumn, and a new pay structure giving big but unspecified increases in November, 1979. Mr Callaghan has added that the Government will underwrite the cost of such a settlement.

But the most that can be expected from tomorrow's meeting, according to informed sources, is a possible recall of the union's rank and file delegate conference, which originally mounted the strike. Only that body can call it off. If the conference is recalled, the union on the strike would be divided, but executive members determined to see the issue through are privately confident of being able to keep the strike going.

Mr Richard Foggie, assistant general secretary of the union, admitted that there had been some defections from the

strikers' ranks, but insisted they were "not significant numbers". Press reports of men deciding to go back to work had usually proved false.

"Nowhere have we had two dozen men going back to work," he said. Against that background of apparent solidarity over the demand for an increase now in excess of 10 per cent limit, pickets were out at all fire stations over the Christmas holiday.

Many pickets were visited by fellow unionists and members of the public. "The public were absolutely amazing. They have been playing the lads with all sorts of Christmas cheer," Mr Foggie said.

The employers' side is not due to meet again until January 6, though Mr Rusbridge is in regular informal contact with Mr Terence Perry, the union's general secretary, whose appeal for backing from the General Council of the TUC was defeated by 20 votes to 17 last week. No improvement in the offer has been made, and none is likely.

The employers see three possibilities ahead: the strike continuing indefinitely; a steady drift of firemen from the service to other jobs in industry; or a gradual return to work. They are "waiting and watching" to see which transpires.

A force within a force distinct in its manners and argot and guarding a dangerous thing

How London's river police have changed in 179 years

By Stewart Tendler
Home Affairs Reporter

When the marine police took to the boats 179 years ago the Thames teemed with vessels and villagers. In their first afternoon's work, rowing to and fro, they captured 30 pirates.

If those hardy progenitors of the modern policeman—it is argued they were the first properly constituted force, as opposed to the Bow Street Runners, who were officers of a court—returned today it would be to a very different watery world.

The commercial Thames on which they grew to become the Metropolitan Police's Thames Division has crept away downstream. John Harriott, the magistrate who conceived the idea of the force to combat 11,000 eighteenth-century criminals, would find it difficult

to muster evidence of much serious crime.

There are still cobbles in Wapping High Street, where Harriott based his force, and his men would recognize the esoteric world that still revolves around Wapping police station. The Thames Division is in many ways a police force within a police force, distinct in its nautical manners and river argot.

Each of the 30 launches that patrol sections of the 56 miles from Staines to Dartford is under the command of a coxswain with the rank of sergeant. His two constables are referred to as "hands" and all wear reefers jackets as their normal uniform.

Their world is inhabited, increasingly sparingly, by "Charles", the watchmen on lighters, and "North Sea" spies, the owner-operators of small freighters. There are

sometimes dockers who "wash their hands in the golden bucket" which is one way of describing overtime.

A boathook is a "hitcher", possibly because it is often used to pull in one of the 60 bodies found on average each year in the Thames.

The river carries four million passengers annually on a variety of craft ranging from dinghies to hydrofoils, and the river police have become involved in the difficulties that accompany the increasing use of pleasure craft.

In the summer floating discotheques ply until the early hours. Licensing laws do not apply to vessels unless they are permanently moored.

The 210 officers of the river police have become the guardians of the public against the vagaries of what one coxswain described as "the biggest and most dangerous thing in

London". The hyperbole can be excused when one considers the strong currents, the winter weather and the flood threat.

Between 1970 and 1975 officers rescued nearly 200 people from the Thames.

No officer goes on the river until he has successfully completed a course at the division's academy, which teaches boat handling, navigation and merchant shipping law. The nautical flavour is reinforced by the fact that many of the older men are former seamen.

They have brought with them the camaraderie learnt at sea and, not suffering hindrances to public relations such as parking matters or drunk-driving, they have achieved a good rapport with river users.

Having grown used to the changes on the river, they have to adapt to changes in their own ranks. A modern boatyard has replaced the old boathouse and

includes a hoist capable of lifting a boat out of the water in minutes.

A new fleet of launches is coming into service. The new boats are twice as fast as the old ones, which have seen 15 years' service and are capable of little more than 14 mph.

Within the next year several of the seven river police stations, originally positioned according to the distance a boat could be rowed, are to be closed. Manpower has been reduced by natural wastage and the division no longer has its own CID officers.

But it will still be many years before the word "winem" disappears from the police radio channels. It is used by the river police to describe the stalling of the propeller and it happens up to 800 times a year. At one time the cause was mostly rope. These days it is usually polythene.

Building unions to ask for substantial rises

By Our Labour Editor

Construction union leaders have given notice of a claim for "substantial" increases for a million building workers. They are also seeking a shorter working week, longer holidays and other fringe benefit improvements.

The claim has been submitted in outline by Mr George Smith, chairman of the trade union side of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry, and general secretary of the industry's largest union, the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

In a letter to the National Federation of Building Trades Employers he said that the three main unions would seek substantial increases in pay and consolidation into basic rates of the 55 and 41 per cent incomes policy supplements.

In view of the present state of the construction industry, we also intend to return to claims for the improvement of working conditions involving a proposed

reduction of the working week and improvements in holidays and sick pay which were raised during the last pay negotiations," he added.

One of the unions involved, the Transport and General Workers' Union, sees a cut in the working week as a way of improving employment. The construction industry has been particularly affected by the economic recession and more than 200,000 building workers are estimated to be getting unemployment benefits.

In their first response to the claim the employers have shown a willingness to listen to the wage demand, arguing that the industry's pay structure should be simplified. They will be expected to improve sickness benefits.

But pressure to cut the working week to below 40 hours will be strongly opposed, and the employers will also insist that the industry cannot afford to increase holidays.

Negotiations on the building claim will start in earnest next month.

Scotland may benefit by more than 30,000 jobs

New confidence among Scottish businessmen could lead to more than 30,000 extra jobs in the next 12 months, according to the Scottish Council (Development and Industry).

A survey had shown that manufacturers intended to invest £550m during 1978, the council said yesterday that investment, in 546 companies, would create 13,699 jobs and make 3,646 existing ones obsolete.

The council estimated that two thousand more jobs would be created in companies with fewer than 10 employees. The effect on the construction industry would be to increase employment by 12,000 and 7,000 more jobs would be created in supplying industries.

Mr Peter Balfour, deputy chairman of the Scottish Council, said in Edinburgh: "There appears to be a revival of confidence, which is causing people to think about investment." The survey showed "a significant and most welcome change."

"I think it is unwise to draw too many optimistic conclusions from a single set of figures," he continued. "Nevertheless, I think the figures speak for themselves. We have a definite promise from a large number of manufacturing companies that there is going to be a net increase in employment, and there is a definite promise of a substantial degree of investment."

"There is an increase in confidence at a time when the general trend of opinion has been that unemployment is going to continue to rise and that no decisions about investment are being taken. One swallow does not make a summer, but at least it heralds the promise of it."

The survey, started in October and concluded two days before Christmas, covered all manufacturing companies in Scotland with 50 or more employees. No reply was received from companies that did not envisage any significant investment or employment changes. Nevertheless, 450 of the 1,400 companies replied.

"The £549m new investment and the associated 10,000 new jobs identified by the survey provide hard evidence of returning confidence in a major sector of the Scottish economy and prospects of a welcome increase in employment," the survey report said. "Against the depressing background of the December, 1977, employment figures, which showed a marked deterioration in Scotland's position relative to other parts of the United Kingdom, it is anticipated that the effect of the investment and new employment identified by this survey, and the increase in construction activity which is expected, will result in a much improved employment situation in Scotland during the coming year."

Christmas in the sales queue for six

For six people Christmas will be remembered as a 108-hour

homage to the temporal gods of Oxford Street, London, where the seasonal sales are offering some glittering prizes.

Mrs Maria Girdwood, aged 30, from Poplar, and her friend, Mrs Denise Portillo, aged 25, from Ilford, both east-Londoners, forsook the usual Christmas cheer for a colour television

(£49.50) and a three-piece suite (£35). Before the holiday they were on sale at £229 and £460 respectively.

The two women arrived with camp beds outside Debenhams' at 6 pm on Friday intending to be the first inside.

Mrs Girdwood said: "I know we've missed the whole of Christmas this year, but next year we can sit down in comfort and watch the television."

They arrived shortly before Mr Ivan Aivazian, aged 43, an Armenian, from Harrow, north-west London, who close to spend Christmas queuing for a £169.50.

Three other people arrived shortly after to queue for a Persian rug.

Some garage air gauges 'could be dangerous'

Many motorists are driving with wrongly inflated tyres because of inaccurate air gauges, according to a report published today.

A check on free air services at more than 900 garages showed that only half of the hose-and-gauges were accurate within 2lb a square inch, and a fifth showed errors of more than 4lb. The fixed-dial gauges were much more accurate, but 8 per cent nevertheless showed errors of more than 4lb, according to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which asked trading standards officers to carry out the check.

Mr Peter Cather, chairman of the authorities' consumer protection committee, said: "The survey revealed serious discrepancies that could be dangerous in some cases."

"But we are not anxious for regulations to be introduced that would impose strict standards on gauges. We feel that could bring about a widespread withdrawal of tyre pressure testing facilities at public garages."

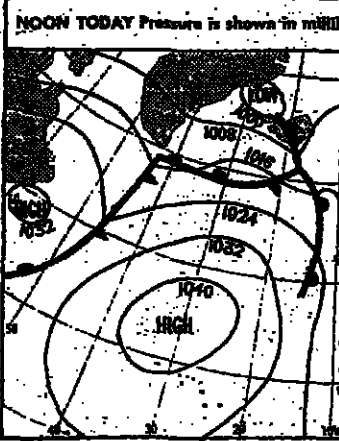
The association would ask the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection working party that is investigating the gauges to recommend voluntary testing schemes with the traders' cooperation, he said.

Barrister MP on drink charge

Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC, Labour MP for Aberystwyth and a Crown Court recorder, was fined £5 at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court on December 24 for being drunk and disorderly in Firth Street early on Christmas Eve.

Mr Thomas, of Lamont Road, Chelsea, pleaded guilty.

Weather forecast and recordings



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NOON TODAY

Channel Islands
SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland
Lake District, NW England, Glasgow, Argyll, SW Scotland
Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE and NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland
Outlook for tomorrow
and Friday: Rather cold, rain or sleet at times, snow in places, sunny intervals, overnight frost.
Sea passages
6 North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind NW, strong to gale; sea very rough.
English Channel (E), St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind N to NW strong to gale; sea very rough.

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Participation in running the arts widened in London

By Martin Huckerby

The Greater London Arts Association has launched out on a new path aimed at increasing participation in the running of the arts. As a result it has trebled its membership.

After lengthy consideration the association adopted a new constitution, which sought to make the organization more democratic. In the past only organizations that had some relevance to the arts in London were able to join; now membership is open to both individuals and all organisations in the capital.

Mr John Hambley, planning and development director of Thames Television, who is the new chairman of the association, said: "The new executive committee is composed of 10 people directly elected by the membership, together with five nominees from

Crofters and fishermen counterpoint the music

By a Staff Reporter

The fruits of a new Arts Council policy for subsidizing films will go on show soon when *One Foot in Eden*, a film about Peter Maxwell Davies, the composer, is released. It is a portrait of the composer and his surroundings, concerning Maxwell Davies and his recent life in Orkney, which has been completed by Bertie Martin.

The 49-minute film is not a portrait of the composer but an evocation of Orkney in relation to his music. There is no narration, the voices of

No action after inquiry into parish council

No charges will result from a seven-month police investigation into the activities of Southwell Parish Council, Nottinghamshire.

A report was sent in August to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who now says the evidence does not justify action against anyone. The inquiry was undertaken after allegations from unnamed people of maladministration.

Manslaughter alleged

Paul Foster, aged 18, unemployed, was remanded in custody at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, on Saturday, charged with the manslaughter of a woman on December 21, of Mrs Lillian King, aged 85. Mr Foster, of Old Market, Wisbech, also faced three charges of arson and one of attempted arson.

Christmas Day

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 11°C (52°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 9°C (48°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 70 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 2,000 h. Sea, mean sea level, 6 pm, 102.1 millibars, steady.

Boxing Day

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 10°C (50°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 5°C (41°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 85 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.4 in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 1,900 h. Sea, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1015.4 millibars, falling.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 13°C (55°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 9°C (48°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 80 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.3 in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 2,200 h. Sea, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1015.4 millibars, rising.

Christmas Eve

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 12°C (54°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 8°C (46°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 70 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.4 in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 2,000 h. Sea, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1015.4 millibars, rising.

Overseas selling prices

Commodity	Unit	Price
Wheat	100 lbs	£1.10
Barley	100 lbs	£1.05
Oats	100 lbs	£1.00
Rye	100 lbs	£1.05
Malt	100 lbs	£1.10
Beer	100 lbs	£1.10
Whisky	100 lbs	£1.10
Vodka	100 lbs	£1.10
Brandy	100 lbs	£1.10
Wine	100 lbs	£1.10

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Widespread complaints over goods guarantees

Some Londoners took deckchairs to the West End yesterday to await the first screenings in Britain of Star Wars, the science fiction film that has broken all box office records in its first six months in the United States.

Queues began to form at 7.30 am at the Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, and the Leicester Square Theatre. The special morning showings with unreserved seats were sold out. All the evening performances for the rest of the week are sold out and few tickets are left for next week.

Twentieth Century-Fox officials and publicity men hurrying between the two cinemas expressed delight. Advance ticket sales had already reached £170,000, they said. Seat prices start at £5.50.

One fact that surprised film company officials yesterday was that the crowds were rolling in despite the reduced public transport services. Few could hope to book for any of yesterday's later shows and most were happy just to get tickets for later dates.

The film has already made fortunes for its leading actors, with more to come since some are on a percentage of the total take, which already amounts to nearly £100m gross in the United States.

Star Wars starts a run of big cities on January 29 (January 30 in Scotland) and will probably continue at both its present London cinemas until the summer, when it will settle in for an indefinite period at the Dominion.

One small boy and his mother received privileged treatment yesterday. Jason Usher, aged eight, had written to the BBC's *Jim'll Fix It* programme explaining how he wanted to see *Star Wars*. His mother said he had always been fascinated by anything to do with space. "He wants to be an astronaut," she added.

Without doubt, several thousand other people were turning the same ambition yesterday. Another film which has been highly successful in the United States has been selected for the Royal Film Performance which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend at the Odeon, Leicester Square, on March 13. *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, with unidentified flying objects as its theme, contains no scenes of violence, war or sex, according to Mr Steven Spielberg, its director. He believes its fascination lies in its subject matter.

Strong opposition to the proposal to include the Lake District in the National Park. The Lake District is a beautiful area of mountains, lakes and forests. It is a popular holiday destination for many people. The proposal to include it in the National Park has been met with strong opposition from local people and conservationists.

HOME NEWS

Widespread complaints over goods guarantees

By Robin Young

Consumers' complaints about guarantees are so numerous that there is need for a general code of practice, Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, suggests in a consultative paper.

Local authority trading standards officers reported 1,397 complaints about guarantees in the first half of this year. Complaints included cases where the guarantee on goods was a gift, was in the name of the purchaser and could not be transferred to the recipient. In other cases the guarantee period had expired before the goods were satisfactorily repaired.

Mr Borrie says that some guarantee clauses are "so restrictive and unreasonable that their use cannot be justified". He includes under that heading demands that goods should be returned to the original supplier, requiring the goods should have been bought from an appointed dealer or at full list price and conditions that do not allow the consumer a reasonable time in which to return a registration card to qualify for the guarantee.

An Office of Fair Trading study of guarantees has shown that at the detailed terms of guarantees are seldom advertised, and that often the consumer learns of the guarantee only after making the purchase.

Mr Borrie says customers should have the opportunity to examine guarantees before committing themselves to purchase.

His consultative paper suggests that guarantees are advertised in their basic limitations should be disclosed.

Mr Borrie has sent his paper to more than seventy organisations representing consumers, traders and industry and local authorities for their comments by February 28.

Universities unable to avoid deficits

By Tim Albert

British universities are finding it harder to make ends meet, according to the latest batch of annual reports. Bristol, for example, expects a deficit of £300,000 on the income and expenditure account for 1977-78.

"Unfortunately this is not the end of the story," writes Dr Richard Hill, chairman of the council, "for the Universities Grants Committee (UGC) grant to the universities for 1977-78 is said by the Secretary of State to represent an increase in 1976-77 of 1 per cent in real terms."

However, omitted from her statement was the fact that this was based on an assumed increase in salaries and wages of 5 per cent and a price increase for all other items of expenditure of 12 per cent.

"Leaving on one side this last figure, if the figure for the increase in salaries and wages was any more realistic, it would mean the most scandalous treatment of staff and one the university could not accept."

At Manchester a deficit of £250,000 for 1977-78 is expected by Dr Geoffrey Templeman, the vice-chancellor. He notes that posts have been unfilled or disestablished, books and periodicals subscriptions essential to the university have become chronically depressed.

This year, he says, the books were more or less balanced, next year's expected deficit means that the university will have to use up the rest of its revenue reserve.

Several vice-chancellors point out that the Government decision to raise student fees has compounded their difficulties. From Bath, Dr Paul Matthews, the vice-chancellor, says that since four-fifths of those fees are paid out of public funds, the main effect is to complicate accounting procedures whereby money eventually finds its way to the universities.

About a quarter of recurrent income has to be collected from individual students, he says. "This must mean that more and more administrators in the public sector chase sums of public money round smaller and smaller circles, while universities support at the cutting edge of the university system have to be left from a 'small adjustments' at one stage the university faced a possible deficit of £74,000 for 1977-78, he says.

"We came to the conclusion that by the most stringent economies short of staff dismissals, starting at once with a view to the university's surplus of £150,000 in 1976-77 to help the following years, we could just get by with the help of our reserves. Throughout this year, therefore, we have been looking everywhere to cut expenses."

Dr J. M. Cerniske, vice-chancellor of York, says that if the universities are passing through a period of seven lean years there are still three more to go.

Hull goes into detail on the finances: "The recurrent deficit for 1976-77 was £100,000, the recurrent deficit for 1977-78 is £125,000, leaving for 1977-78 an estimated requirement of £34,000. The recurrent deficit could be met only by donations."

The estimate for the maintenance of buildings and grounds, already drastically reduced, and to further cut capital grants can no longer be relied upon to finance the recurrent deficit, nor can the university afford to finance it from its own resources; yet it is essential for our expansion that the programme continues and some provision for a fund built up from residential fees now seems desirable.

The gardens section in particular still suffers from a reduction of staff and severe cuts in work in the area. Extra commitments in clearing have been taken on without increased staff. The role of the gardens is being asked to look again at possible measures further to reduce the cost, already rigorously pared.

WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS



Lady Chaplin (second from right) and members of her family at the funeral yesterday.

Vietnam joins world in mourning Chaplin

Official tributes to Charlie Chaplin, who died in Geneva on Christmas Day aged 88, have come from all over the world, both East and West.

In Vietnam, the Communist Party daily *Nhan Dan*, in a rare tribute to a Western artist, carried a photograph and an article mourning "an unequalled man" whose films were both comical and "an inspiration towards a just and equal life."

The Chinese press praised his "satires on capitalism and fascism" and said he was a victim of McCarthyism.

Tass in Moscow eulogized Chaplin as a wonderful artist who "glorified ordinary people and warned of fascism". The official press in other East European countries echoed the tribute.

Tokyo cinema audiences clapped in mourning when news of his death was flashed on to screens.

In Israel, where Chaplin was particularly popular, the Army radio station interrupted a broadcast of Mr Begin's departure for Egypt to announce the news.

King urges Spaniards to remain united

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Dec 27

"There have been more achievements than failures" in Spain's march towards democracy since General Franco's death, King Juan Carlos has told his people in a broadcast Christmas message.

Speaking from the Zarzuela palace, the King said on Christmas Eve: "There can be no doubt that we have come a long way in these two years by dint of effort and sacrifice, but also with decision, hope and optimism."

He was shown in the pre-recorded television programme with Queen Sofia and their three children. "Prosperity, liberty and peace cannot be won without unity," he went on, adding: "Our task is to build a new Spain, united and free."

On the controversial issue of autonomy for various regions, he said: "From the integrating viewpoint of the monarchy, which is based on the richness and plurality of the Spanish regions, different but not opposed to each other, each with its own personality, but all sharing in the same national destiny."

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Christmas attack on Marchais home

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 27

The spate of armed attacks and bombings in France continued over Christmas with several more incidents, including the firing of shots at the home of M. George Marchais, the Communist leader, and the bombing of a judge's flat in Paris.

There have now been 15 such incidents in the past 10 days, so far with no loss of life.

The senior judge whose Paris flat was wrecked is M. Louis Zolinger, a member of the Court of Appeal, who was the investigating magistrate in the Ben Barka affair in 1965. The Communist Party, however, maintains that the attack against its leader at his country home was the work of an "organized fascist gang."

A railway station at Villepierre was also partly destroyed early yesterday by an explosive device, killing one person and leaving a train of incinerated travellers. Neighbours reported hearing shouts of threats, fire crackers and shots at about 2 am.

At Marchais's home, the attack on Christmas Eve against M. Marchais's country cottage at Saint-Martin-de-Oreuse, in the Yonne, south-east of Paris, was first believed by the local police to be the work of incendiary bombers. Neighbours reported hearing shouts of threats, fire crackers and shots at about 2 am.

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Strong opposition to £2m lake scheme in unspoiled valley of a national park

From a Special Correspondent Whitehaven

The North West Water Authority's plan to approve a £2.3m scheme to raise the level of Ennerdale lake, in the heart of Cumbria's national park, is proving controversial. It seems inevitable that a public inquiry will be held.

Many organizations seek to object to the proposal; they will probably include the Lake District Special Planning Board, the National Trust, the Friends of the Lake District, the Country Landowners' Association, the Youth Hostels Association, the Nature Conservancy, Cumbria Countryside Conference and Friends of the Earth.

Proponents, apart from the water authority, will probably be Cumbria County Council, and Copeland and Allerdale district councils.

The purpose of raising the lake is to enhance water supplies to industrial west Cumbria, and the authority chose the scheme in preference to a £4,587,000 project to take water from the Derwent, near Wetherby.

That alternative was favoured by most of the objectors in representations made to the water authority earlier this year, when they also made it clear that in principle they oppose the Ennerdale scheme.

It is predicted that west Cumbria will run short of water by 1979 unless action is taken quickly, and a scheme is regarded as essential to its continuing housing and industrial development.

The planners consider that in balancing economic and environmental it is difficult to have the preservation of the environmental status quo at Ennerdale justifies the expenditure of an additional £2m of the water authority's budget.

The Ennerdale scheme will also cost less to run than the Derwent project.

Predictably, the objectors take the opposite view. They are changing," Mr William Badger, secretary of west Cumbria branch of the Friends of the Earth, said. "The days when any development was universally greeted as progress are past."

"Progressive thinking leads to the conclusion that the preservation of the Ennerdale valley is of an altogether higher level of importance than the mere economics of the water supply situation in west Cumbria."

The Derwent scheme would have the minimum environmental impact, with the capacity to meet requirements well into the next century. Alternatively, the Ennerdale scheme would meet growth in domestic and industrial demand until the end of the century.

The authority is confident that the Ennerdale development can take place without damaging the character of the lake. Mr Brian Oldfield, its director of resource planning, said: "We are not talking about major development, such as has taken place at Thirlmere and Haweswater."

The work at Ennerdale involves a new weir and the raising of the lake level to the northern end of the lake by 1.8 metres.

There would also be a "draw-down" of 3.5 metres, and objectors envisage that as resulting in unsightly tracks of mud at times of low water. On farm on the lake shore, Mire-side, which is owned by the National Trust, might lose about 30 acres of agricultural land.

The debate will doubtless become more involved.

Mr Thomas Jackson, of Rotherham, which overlooks the lake, said: "This valley will never be the same again, and the greatest tragedy is that it is one of the unspoiled valleys in the national park."

"The Government's gift of providing lungs in the national park so that the people from the urban areas can regenerate themselves, but what is the point if they are going to get drinking water from the lungs have been filled with water?"

Mr William Rawlings, who farms at The Hollies, and is chairman of Copeland District Council's technical and planning services committee, said: "A expediency and expense sufficient justification for the tremendous environmental impact that this is going to have? It must create scars that will take at least a generation to heal."

Spassky wins narrow chess gap

Belgrade, Dec 27—Boris Spassky, the Soviet world chess champion, beat his opponent, the Czechoslovakian Viktor Korchnoi, in the twelfth game of their 20-game series to find a challenger to Anatoly Karpov, the present champion.

Spassky, playing white, won after 35 moves when Korchnoi overstepped the limit of two and a half hours to make his moves. Spassky was then in a clearly better position.

Korchnoi now leads the series 7-4 and needs three more points to clinch the series.

In the adjourned tenth game, which was completed on Christmas Eve, Korchnoi, playing black, beat Spassky on the sixty-third move.

In the twelfth game, played on Boxing Day, Korchnoi defended with this in the French defence. He has used this in all his games so far, but playing black. After the fifteenth game Spassky was in a slightly better position. Then, in the fourth hour of play, Korchnoi caught a pawn and seemed to have found a game in his favour.

Korchnoi, however, had spent half an hour more than Spassky in pondering his moves and had only four minutes for the last 10 moves. When the players started playing, Korchnoi made mistakes and the flag on his clock fell before he was able to take his thirty-eighth move.

Immediately afterwards Korchnoi said he would complain about the conditions to the organizers.

A dispute over a demonstration board between the two grandmasters had already postponed the match for a week. When the game did get under way, the board was in sight of both players, although Korchnoi had wanted it removed.

Boy of 11 is killed in ambush

Salisbury, Dec 27—Sixty-six people have been killed since Christmas Eve in the war between Rhodesian forces and black nationalist guerrillas, military headquarters said today.

Most were reported to be guerrillas but they also included a white boy of 11 who was killed in a nationalist ambush on his family's car north of Salisbury last night.

Officials identified him as Ian Johnson but did not say whether other members of the family had been hurt or give other details. The attack occurred in the white farming district of Centurion.

The war started there in earnest in December 1972 and has since cost more than 5,000 lives.

Today's communiqué said that 16 guerrillas and active sympathizers in the fight for black rule in Rhodesia had been killed in the past 24 hours.

Rhodesian officials said that a total of 52 guerrillas, 13 civilians and one member of the security forces had been killed since December 24.—Reuters.

Mrs Bhutto is placed under house arrest

Lahore, Dec 27—Pakistan's military rulers put the wife of Mr Bhutto, the imprisoned former Prime Minister, under house arrest here today in an apparent attempt to prevent her from leading a day of protest against the martial law regime next month.

One police officer said Mrs Bhutto was placed under house arrest because she was observed where she was admitted with a head injury after political violence at an England-Pakistan cricket match 11 days ago.

The order, issued by a district magistrate, placed her in detention until January 10—five days after a planned day of demonstrations to demand immediate general elections and a return to civilian government. Ten days ago Mr Bhutto's elder daughter, Benazir Bhutto, aged 24, was also placed under house arrest until January 10.

Mrs Bhutto has called on supporters to observe a day of "democracy" on January 5 to demand the release of her husband and other leaders of his Pakistan People's Party.

Mrs Bhutto, who was removed from office in a coup last July, has been held under martial law arrest for more than three months. He is also on trial here for murder in connection with an ambush on a political opponent three years ago.

Dozens of Mr Bhutto's leading supporters were detained in several cities last week in what appeared to be an attempt by General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq to prevent the planned demonstrations.

General Zia has held Pakistan under martial law since the coup and all outdoor political activities are banned. He postponed indefinitely elections scheduled for last October.

A spokesman for the Pakistan People's Party said the day of "democracy" would be observed with religious prayer meetings and readings from the Koran. Mrs Bhutto, who has assumed leadership of the party, has spoken, however, of possible violence if election are not held immediately.

Mrs Bhutto was to have left tomorrow for a tour of the North-West Frontier Province. A police officer at the hospital said Mrs Bhutto could move to by home-up serve out the detention order.—Reuters.

Sir Richard Marsh questions MPs' role

By Oak Political Staff

Sir Richard Marsh, a former Labour Minister, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association, and former chairman of the British Railways Board, yesterday attacked his old colleagues in the House of Commons for failing to reform parliamentary procedure to take account of modern economic and industrial realities.

Parliament still clung to antiquated ideas that existed when it was formed as a group of country squires gathered together to advise the king on how to run the country, he said in a BBC radio interview.

The people would take a grim view of industry if it did not change to meet new conditions, he said. "But members of Parliament have got into the habit of thinking that lack of change is something to be proud of."

The Commons had become rather like the House of Lords or like the correspondence columns of *The Times*, where one heard the views of housewives on people, while the real economic and political policy making was done outside Parliament between ministers, the Confederation of British Industry and the trade unions.

That task was reserved for the "really big chips" outside Parliament. MPs in the Commons did a considerable job for their constituents on a social welfare basis but the House was not a place for people with executive ambitions.

"They would not be able to stand the job," Sir Richard said. "One of the reasons why I wanted to get out of Parliament after a period in government was that instinctively I was an executive, maybe not one, but I could not bear the thought of spending another period on the back benches."

One of the difficulties he found when speaking to his former colleagues was that you say anything that suggests that all is less than perfect in Parliament you are accused of being a jackboots fascist. But we have to be a member of Parliament in a place for a part-time occupation than it is now."

French hostages 'held in Algeria'

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 27

Six of the eight French nationals freed in Algiers last Friday by the West Saharan Polisario guerrillas said today that they were certain they had been held captive on Algerian soil. They held a press conference at the headquarters of the League for the Rights of Man, near the Santé prison, because, they explained, it was the only place where they could do so without fear that their statements might be exploited for political ends.

On the whole, they appear to have been well treated, except when two of them made an attempted escape, and were flogged on recapture with whips made with electric cables. But even then, the chastisement was limited, they insisted. What was most unbearable for all of them, especially the six captured in May, was the boredom. They were completely out of touch with the outside world, being denied the use of any radio until a few days before their release.

"We played cards to kill time," Mme Nicole Foulon, the only woman among them, told reporters. "But all said and done, our days were mortally tedious."

They were treated as hostages, not as prisoners of war or mercenaries as the Polisario claimed. For the first four months, they were lodged in tents in the desert near Tindouf, in Algeria, and under permanent guard. Then, with a journey of 600 miles on matted roads in Land Rovers, they were transferred to a military base near Adrar, where they remained two months.

It was there that two of them attempted to escape. "We walked for 40 kilometres before being recaptured by two of our Polisario guards, and two uniformed men, who must have been members of the Algerian forces, for they gave orders in French. We were kicked and punched about, and back in prison, left to guards who struck us and whipped us. But we were not really beaten up," they said.

Britons round Cape Horn in four kayaks

Four British canoeists have succeeded in a Christmas attempt to round Cape Horn in one-man kayaks.

They put to the water from the Chilean town of Puerto Williams on December 11, hoping to round the cape on Christmas Day. But a radio message to the men's families said: "Rounded Cape Horn 09.15 December 22. All safe and well." Extra time was allowed because of possible 100 mph winds and 40ft waves.

The four are Frank Glodman, of Nottingham, Jim Hargreaves, of North Wales, Barry Smith, of Edinburgh, and Nigel Matthews of Leicester.

Heavy traffic and bad weather end a quiet holiday

Traffic clogged up roads into London and cities last night as the weather became treacherous in many parts of Britain.

Exceptionally heavy traffic was reported on the A12 between Colchester and Chelmsford and on the M4 and other main routes into London. A heavy rain had been turning colder since Boxing Day. The London Weather Centre warned home-going drivers to expect frost and icy roads by day.

The fire-fighting troops and police in London reported a very quiet holiday.

Changes in law included in updated Highway Code

A new version of the Highway Code is to appear in February. The present code has become out of date in several important respects since it was published nine years ago.

The Department of Transport has admitted that the code was greater than that of the present version, but it hopes it would be "nearer 15p than 50p."

A Green Paper setting out the Government's proposed revisions to the code was published in 1974, but it was not until November last year that time was found to debate it. After further revision it passed through Parliament last month.

The new code gives advice reflecting many changes in road use and legislation since 1969. It contains fresh material about mini-roundabouts, motorway warning signals, multi-lane parking at night and safety for code.

There is advice about carrying young children only in the back of cars in approved safety harnesses, which goes some way towards the situation in Switzerland, where it is an offence to have a child in the front passenger seat.

It gives a warning about never driving after drinking and is influenced by EEC regulations when it advises drivers not to use tinted visors and sun glasses at night.

Other changes include guidance is given including zigzag markings at pedestrian crossings, the use of bus lanes, what to do at the scene of an accident, dangerous goods symbols, the European hexagonal "stop" sign, and revised speed limits.

The first Highway Code was published in 1968. It introduced: "Good manners and consideration for others as desirable and as much appreciated on the roads as elsewhere."

In brief

Callas ashes are lost and found

Paris, Dec 27—The ashes of Maria Callas, the opera singer who died in September, disappeared from a Paris crematory yesterday but were quickly recovered, police said today.

A worker at the Père Lachaise cemetery noticed that the urn had been removed, but it was found several hours later standing by a grave in the cemetery. The motives for the act were not known.

Honda's £4.6m check

Tokyo, Dec 27—The Honda Motor Company is to recall more than two million motor cycles with defective fuel tank caps and 830,000 cars with a defective exhaust control switch. The operation will cost £4.6m.

TV crew flies home

A Yorkshire Television crew of seven held under house arrest in Congo were freed and returned home on Christmas Eve. The American Ambassador in Brazzaville persuaded the Congolese security police to release them.

Marcos poll result

Manila, Dec 27—President Marcos won an 89.53 per cent vote of confidence for his martial law rule in the referendum on December 18, according to final official results.

Turkish censure vote

Ankara, Dec 27—The Turkish National Assembly decided by 424 votes to eight to table a censure motion against Mr Suleyman Demirel's coalition Government. The debate will start on Thursday.

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MIDDLE EAST TALKS

Ismailia summit's quest for a breakthrough to peace

Dec 24—Israeli Government officials said today that Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, was taking two chief proposals with him to the summit meeting in Ismailia with President Sadat of Egypt.

One of these plans was for a bilateral settlement with Egypt; the other dealt with the biggest problem of all, the Palestinians.

Israeli newspapers and the state radio and television speculated that Israel was ready to recognize Egyptian sovereignty over the entire Sinai, part of which is now Israeli-occupied. But special status would be accorded existing Israeli enclaves in the northern Rafah area and at Sharm-el-Sheikh, the southernmost point.

Israel was also said to be asking for most of Sinai to be demilitarized, and that both Israel and Egypt maintain existing early warning electronic surveillance centres at strategic mountain passes.

Mr Begin, who discussed the proposals with President Carter during his Washington visit, disclosed on American television that the most important provision concerning the Palestinians was to grant them limited autonomy.

Speculation in Jerusalem is that residents in the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza Strip would elect representatives to a governing council, to deal largely with municipal matters, such as education, health, police and taxes. Israel would control security and maintain some troops in the Jordan River area.

Both Israel and Jordan—Israel ruled the West Bank since 1948 to the 1967 war—would be represented in the council. The arrangement would be re-examined after five years.

Arab residents would be permitted to choose either Israeli or Jordanian citizenship, while some 50 controversial Israeli settlements in the occupied area would remain.

The plan was also believed to provide for an international commission, including Saudi Arabian and Moroccan representatives, to supervise Muslim holy places in Jerusalem. Another international commission would deal with the resettlement of Arab refugees.

Propitious time to reach a settlement

Dec 25—Mr Begin flew from Tel Aviv this morning for the Ismailia summit with President Sadat, who is celebrating his fifty-ninth birthday today.

Before boarding the El Al airliner, Mr Begin said: "I'm going to Ismailia, to Egypt, to meet Egyptian President Anwar Sadat with an open heart, and with faith in my heart."

"We are carrying a peace plan which has been described by everybody who has seen it as a fair basis for a negotiated peace."

"We have faith in our hearts because this is the propitious time to establish peace in the Middle East; to prevent another war from breaking out; to prevent sadness, bereavement, orphanhood and mourning among two great civilized nations, Israel and Egypt."

"We leave for Ismailia without any superiority complex. But we also leave without any inferiority complex."

Mr Begin named a long list of world leaders headed by President Carter and Mr Callaghan who, he said, had all endorsed the plan as a good basis to conduct negotiations for peace.

The flags of Israel and Egypt were hung from the windows of the cockpit of the El Al airliner taking Mr Begin and his party to Egypt.

As the Prime Minister left, a member of the ruling coalition described Mr Begin's peace proposals as "a disaster for Israel."

Mr Moshe Shamir, a leader of the Greater Israel movement within Mr Begin's Likud bloc, told a press conference that the Prime Minister's plan will not bring peace but will serve as a basis for the next attack on a weakened Israel.

Mr Shamir said the parts of the plan which concerned the West Bank were a "conterpoint for an independent" Palestinian state governed by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Message from Mr Carter as talks start

Another member of the Greater Israel movement, Mr Zei Shiloach, has resigned from the Likud's executive in protest at Mr Begin's plan.

Mr Shamir said his movement would fight against the Prime Minister's proposals "just as we did against similar intentions during former Labour rule."

Opposition to the return of occupied territories to Arab sovereignty has also mounted in Jewish settlements established in those areas during the past 10 years.

Members of settlements in the Rafah area of northern Sinai demonstrated at Ben Gurion airport while Mr Begin was speaking to reporters before leaving for the summit meeting.

An hour after landing in Egypt, President Sadat and Mr Begin started their first round of talks. A 50-minute private meeting. As they did so, the two leaders received a telephone call from President Carter, who told them the entire world was supporting their efforts for a Middle East peace settlement.

Mr Carter made the call from his hometown of Plains,

Georgia. He told reporters afterwards: "The connexion was pretty bad. I could just barely hear them. So I relayed a message to them that they have my best wishes and support and that the whole world awaits the peace that they can bring us on this Christmas Day."

Egyptian officials in Ismailia were quoted as saying that the line went down as President Sadat took the call, but the White House said it believed there was at least a brief conversation between the two men.

Mr Begin was the first Israeli Prime Minister to be welcomed in an Arab state, and President Sadat emerged smiling from their private meeting.

Asked whether they reached a joint agreement, Mr Begin said: "We had serious discussions for several hours in complete sincerity. We will resume our talks tomorrow at 9 am. Tonight we are guests of President Sadat and there is good hope that we reach agreement."

The two leaders reported that they had reached quick agreement on new steps towards a negotiated Middle East peace.

"We have got off on the right foot," Mr Begin said. An Israeli spokesman said Mr Begin also presented a draft declaration of intent for a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Begin anger over leaking of peace terms

The two men agreed before their lunch adjournment that peace negotiations would be continued at the level of foreign and defence ministers after their summit.

When Mr Begin learnt of the disclosure in Israeli newspapers of some of his peace plans he expressed great anger, according to newsmen travelling with him.

The chairman of the foreign affairs and security committee of the Knesset said the information had been leaked after Mr Begin had shown the plan to the committee over the weekend.

After lunch Mr Sadat and Mr Begin had a second private meeting and in the evening the two delegations met once more. Sources said the future talks between foreign and defence ministers would be linked to the Cairo conference.

They said the leaders of the Cairo talks would become Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Kamal, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, and Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General.

"Mr Kamal told reporters that a settlement based on full withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of Palestinian rights must lead to permanent peace."

Asked whether there was any progress during the talks, Mr Kamal said: "Any talks lead to an understanding and a rapprochement in the points of view. Our demands are clear and we will insist on them."

Mr Osman Ahmad Osman, President Sadat's father-in-law, and the member of Parliament for Ismailia, said he did not believe the plan was the same as that outlined by Mr Begin during his visit to Washington last week.

Mr Sadat makes no comment on Israeli plan

"That one I think was for local consumption," he said. He did not elaborate.

Mr Begin's Washington outline proposed autonomy for the West Bank but with the continued presence of Israeli troops. President Sadat subsequently went on record as saying a continued Israeli military presence on the West Bank was unacceptable.

Egyptian officials said the Egyptian delegation met alone in the afternoon to draft its counter-proposals to the Israeli declaration of intent.

It was announced that Mr Begin would stay the night in Ismailia to allow time for more talks.

Mr Sadat agreed with Mr Begin that the talks had started well. But while agreement was quickly reached on how negotiations could be continued, Mr Sadat had no comment to reporters on the substance of the Israeli plan for peace itself.

According to a senior Israeli delegate at the summit, Mr Begin's Government feels it has made major concessions and expects President Sadat to follow suit.

"A wide gap still exists between our positions," he said. "If we are to make any real progress, President Sadat must match at least some of the broad military and political concessions made by Israel."

The negotiations must be a two-way street with give and take by both sides. So far, only we have been given."

The Prime Minister's wife, Mrs Aliza Begin, was forced to call off her plans to visit Mrs Jehan Sadat, the President's wife, because of influenza.

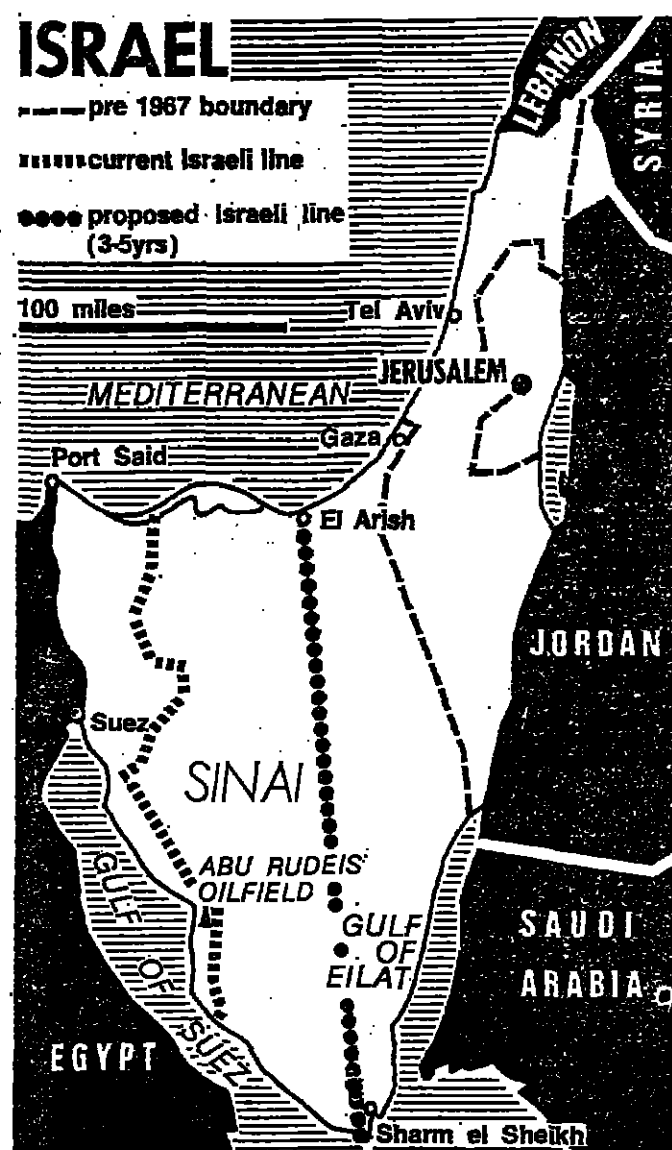
Instead Mrs Begin sent Mrs Sadat a gift and a message with the Prime Minister.

In Beirut, about 3,000 Palestinians, many of them carrying automatic weapons, marched through the streets in protest against the peace talks.

The demonstration members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), converged on a sports stadium

According to reports leaked by the Israeli press and radio, the peace plan presented by Mr Begin to President Sadat envisages:

1. Israel to withdraw to a line from El Arish, northern Sinai, to the southernmost tip of the peninsula at Ras Muhammad for an interim period of between three and five years.
2. Israel afterwards to complete the evacuation of Sinai to the pre-1967 international boundary line.
3. Israeli settlements in Sinai to be under Egyptian sovereignty but settlers to retain Israeli citizenship and be subject to Israeli laws and courts.
4. Israel and Egypt to exchange consuls-general until completion of the Israeli evacuation of Sinai when legations would be up-graded to ambassadorial level.
5. Autonomous rule for the occupied West Bank of Jordan for a period of 20 years with the establishment of a ruling council for internal affairs and formation of 10 departments, similar to government ministries.
6. At the end of the interim period a tripartite committee to be established of representatives of Jordan, Israel and the West Bank people to determine its future, all parties having the right of veto.
7. Israelis to retain the right to establish settlements in Judea and Samaria and Arabs who opt for Israeli citizenship to be entitled to purchase and own land anywhere in Israel.
8. Autonomy for the Gaza Strip.
9. Israel to maintain a military presence in the West Bank and in Gaza. Security and foreign affairs to be handled by Israel.



Mr Begin makes a sweeping gesture as he talks with President Sadat during their first meeting on Christmas Day

for a mass rally marked by chants, songs and speeches denouncing Mr Sadat.

The Marxist-oriented DFLP is the second biggest Palestinian guerrilla group after Fatah. Guerrillas armed with Soviet-made assault rifles marched at the head of the long procession as it wound slowly through the narrow streets to the strains of a funeral march.

A large contingent of Syrian troops attached to the Arab League force, which supervises the ceasefire in Lebanon, stood by along the route and inside the stadium, but there were no incidents.

Before addressing the rally, Mr Nayed Hawarni, the DFLP leader, told reporters he expected the peace talks in Egypt to produce an alliance between Egypt and the United States, and that his guerrilla forces were prepared to destroy it.

"Clearly they will announce the general principles of a deal between Sadat and Carter which will be against Palestinian interests."

"We feel very bitter because this is going to lead to the destruction of our national rights to establish an independent state on our homeland."

Dec 26—President Sadat and Mr Begin today failed in their main objective, a breakthrough on the crucial Palestinian issue, but made progress in other areas and agreed to carry on talking.

The two men also failed to issue a much heralded declaration of intent. On his return to Jerusalem, Mr Begin confirmed it was because of differences over the Palestinian question that they had not issued a joint statement. Instead they made separate statements outlining their opposing views.

Ministers to join Cairo conference

The two leaders, at a joint press conference in Ismailia, made clear that some progress had been achieved on other issues, such as an Israeli withdrawal from Egypt's occupied Sinai Peninsula.

They also agreed to upgrade the Cairo preparatory conference to ministerial level and to form two ministerial committees which will do the real work on a comprehensive settlement.

President Sadat said the differences on the Palestinian issue would be thrashed out by a political committee headed in turn by the Egyptian Foreign Minister and the Israeli Foreign Minister.

The committee was one of two formed during the talks and will meet in Jerusalem. A military committee chaired in turn by General Muhammad Gassasi, the Egyptian war minister, and Mr Ezer Weizman, the Israel Defence Minister, will meet in Cairo.

Some confusion reigned over when the committees, which will report to the Cairo conference, will begin their work. Both President Sadat and Mr Begin at their press conference said it would be during the first week in January, but in Jerusalem Mr Begin talked of January 13 or 14.

There was also confusion over the composition of the political committee. As originally presented, both were bilateral, but during the course of the press conference President Sadat said he had agreed with Mr Begin that the political committee would include representatives of the United States and the United Nations.

In Jerusalem, Mr Begin said the Cairo conference, attended by Egypt, Israel, the United States and the United Nations, and which has been meeting sporadically for 12 days, would hold one more session tomorrow before adjourning to give way to the two committees.

Mr Sadat, outlining their differences on the Palestinian questions said:

"The position of Egypt is that on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip a Palestinian state should be established. The position of Israel is that Arab Palestinians who are in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip should enjoy self-rule."

But he and Mr Begin emphasized that the momentum for peace would continue. President Sadat said: "After my visit to Jerusalem (last month) a new spirit in the area prevails and we have agreed in Jerusalem and in Ismailia to continue our efforts towards achieving a comprehensive settlement."

Mr Begin said the two men had agreed to meet again from time to time if necessary. He emphasized that the peace process would be slow, possibly lasting several months.

Although he would not be drawn into specifics, Mr Sadat said the question of an Israeli withdrawal from Sinai was "not a problem now". The military committee would work out the details, he added.

The Egyptian leader also revealed that Israel was willing to withdraw its troops from the West Bank. "In proposals made by Premier Begin he has shown his willingness to end the military government on the West Bank," the President said.

"But we differ on the issue of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the question of self-determination."

As for Syria's Golan Heights, said also held in part by Israel, Mr Sadat said he could not speak for Syria. He was concerned with the main principles of Arab strategy.

Egypt's position is that the other parties involved—Syria, Jordan and the PLO—must negotiate the details of a settlement with Israel themselves.

In Cairo, the Egyptian Middle East New Agency said the military committee set up at the

Ismailia summit would meet in the Egyptian capital on January 7 or 8.

It also said the political committee would meet in Jerusalem in the second half of January. The committees were expected to end their work within six or eight weeks.

While Mr Begin returned to Jerusalem in an apparently exuberant mood, many Israelis appeared disappointed with the results of the summit.

The Prime Minister said the two sides had "sat for long hours to devise a joint declaration—until 10.30 last night—and then agreed to postpone discussion until this morning."

"But our differences (over the Palestinians) are basic," he said. "The Egyptians wanted a Palestinian state in the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip. We reject this, as do the United States and other countries as well, and the Egyptians could not accept our position for self-rule in Judea and Samaria."

Disappointment in Israel over outcome

Mr Begin said the Ismailia meeting had been successful, although he admitted that deep differences existed between the two sides.

"You prayed for success and your prayers were answered," he told Israelis. "The important thing is we have entered negotiations and don't let us forget that all peace negotiations start with differences of opinion. Give us a chance."

He reiterated previous statements that he was certain the negotiations would eventually prove successful. But many prominent Israelis expressed misgivings or disappointment over the results after being led by the Israeli press to expect a dramatic breakthrough.

Two Israeli newspaper editors who were in Egypt for the summit said they expected harder results. Mr Shalom Rosenfeld, of *Masruiv*, said his initial reaction was "one of some disappointment but then it became mixed—perhaps because we expected too much."

Miss Hanna Zemer, of the trade union daily *Davar*, also said she had hoped for "a greater step forward, but there may well be some developments going on behind the scenes that we just do not know."

We also should not expect a dispute of more than 50 years to be settled in a few weeks or months."

Dr Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who has headed the Israeli delegation at the Cairo peace talks, said at Ismailia airport that the meeting had been "successful, with important results achieved."

The spokesman for the

Egyptian delegation, Dr Mursi Saad al-Din, agreed with this evaluation, adding that he was "very optimistic about a final overall settlement."

Details of Mr Begin's peace proposals submitted to Mr Sadat will be announced during a Knesset debate on Wednesday. The contingent of more than 100 journalists who accompanied Mr Begin to the Ismailia talks were strongly impressed with the continuing warm personal relationship between Mr Begin and President Sadat.

The two men beamed and joked with each other before the press conference despite the admittedly wide gap in their positions on military and peace issues. Each leader demonstrated support of the other's views. And when they had to announce their disagreement, it was done in tones of mild regret.

After his return to Israel, Mr Begin telephoned President Carter and Mr Callaghan to inform them on his meeting with the Egyptian leader.

Mr Dayan, interviewed by Israeli radio during his flight back from Ismailia, said: "A wide gap still existed on the problem of Sinai concerning subjects like existing Jewish settlements in the area and the question of troops in the region."

But the Foreign Minister added that he was cheered by the fact that the Egyptians chose to continue the efforts to find a solution in spite of the differences.

Mr Dayan told Israel television that the success of future Israeli-Egyptian negotiations depended largely on the readiness of both sides to make concessions, but he was not sure whether the Egyptians were willing to compromise.

Meanwhile, hard-line Arab leaders claimed that the Ismailia peace talks had failed and said that Israel would now seek further concessions from Egypt.

Syria, which heads an Arab rejection front opposed to President Sadat's peace initiative, said no issues had been resolved, and that President Sadat deserved to fall from power.

Reporting on the talks between Mr Sadat and Mr Begin, Damascus radio said: "No issue between them was resolved as a result of this meeting. Both sides are Zionist terrorists did not offer Sadat what he had expected from his new friends regarding complete Israeli withdrawal or even a pullback from Sinai."

The Syrian Government newspaper *Tishrin* said President Sadat deserved to fall from power because he had failed to keep the promises he made about his dealings with Israel.

In Moscow, the Government newspaper *Pravda* dismissed Egyptian claims that the Ismailia summit was part of the search for a comprehensive Middle East settlement. It said the real aim was a separate deal between Egypt and Israel.

—Reuter.

Mr Carter to meet King Husain in his mediation efforts

By David Cross
Washington, Dec 27

President Carter, who has been cheering on President Sadat and Mr Begin by telephone from the Georgia side-lines during their talks in Ismailia, has returned to Washington determined to do all he can to keep the Middle East peace momentum going.

This process is likely to include some quiet diplomacy with both Egyptian and Israeli leaders to encourage them to narrow their differences over the key issue of the West Bank and at the same time a highly publicized encounter between Mr Carter and an Arab leader absent from the present rounds of peace talks.

Mr Carter announced at the weekend that he would meet King Husain of Jordan in Teterboro later this week to encourage him to enter the negotiations. Ad Jroalainpre sense is particularly important now, Mr Carter feels, because the question of the West Bank has become so prominent in the Egyptian-Israeli dialogue.

During a brief impromptu meeting with journalists during his Christmas holiday at his home town of Plains, Georgia, Mr Carter also made it clear that he would welcome a meeting with President Assad of Syria. "It would suit me if it could be worked out," he said.

Nevertheless he conceded that the presence of the Syrians in the negotiations was not essential at this stage. He also said that the Syrian leader's position in private talks appeared to be less strident than his public remarks might suggest.

Mr Carter, however, was careful to avoid committing himself to any specific course of action in any follow up discussions between Israel and Egypt. Before returning to Washington last night he said that Mr Begin had told him by telephone that his visit to Ismailia had been very successful and he (Mr Begin) was very pleased.

Mr Carter declined to say whether he agreed with this assessment. Mr Begin had suggested, the

President said, that Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, should join the next round of political negotiations between Egypt and Israel due to resume at ministerial level in Jerusalem next month.

Mr Carter said that he had not yet decided whether to accede to this request, but well-informed officials here expect Mr Vance to travel to Jerusalem for at least part of the discussions.

Nevertheless, the main American representative is likely to remain Mr Alfred Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, who was attending the talks in Cairo before Christmas. Before determining their next step, President Carter and his advisers are waiting full reports of the results of the Ismailia summit from United States Ambassadors to Egypt and Israel. These were due today.

There is some concern here that the American media in particular were expecting some dramatic breakthrough to emerge from the Christmas summit and are now talking about a setback to the peace process. This is simply not the case according to officials who have long been cautioning against an excessive optimism.

They knew from the outset, after Mr Begin's recent meeting with President Carter here, that the concessions Israel was willing to offer on self-rule for the Palestinians on the West Bank fell far short of Mr Sadat's requirements.

Nevertheless, they are encouraged that the Israelis and the Egyptians have once again expressed their determination to find a settlement.

As a *Washington Post* reporter put it, the editors of "What the Ismailia talks have returned is a defeat of grossly exaggerated miracle-day public relations, rather than a diplomatic setback. The talks did not collapse, nor did they freeze up but instead they are to continue at a high level, which by normal standards would be a significant development."

PLO has Arab shot for 'aiding Israel intelligence'

Beirut, Dec 27.—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has claimed responsibility for the assassination of Hamdi al-Qadi, a West Bank Arab, who it said, was collaborating with Israel intelligence.

Similar orders had been issued "to liquidate a number of agents" the PLO added.

The official PLO news agency Wafa said Mr al-Qadi, a Palestinian Arab in charge of education for the Israeli military administration in the West Bank, was shot dead in Ramallah as he left his home for work.

It said the orders to kill him and other "agents" were issued "after the Revolution had given them several warnings to stop dealing with the enemy's intelligence and to work for the security of our people."

He specifically gave information to Israeli security authorities, which helped them detect our people's movements and clamp down on our students during strike successive uprisings in the occupied homeland," it said.

PLO officials yesterday rejected Israeli proposals for self-rule by Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and spurred an Egyptian invitation to join the Egypt-Israel dialogue.

Wafa said the executive committee of the PLO met yesterday under Mr Yasser Arafat's leadership to discuss the Ismailia talks between Mr Begin and President Sadat.

The executive committee had accused Mr Sadat of seeking to regain the Sinai peninsula at the expense of Palestine and the Golan Heights, forcing the interests and national independence of Egypt; betraying the Palestinian cause and the national rights of the Palestinians; and working for a just and lasting settlement, but a separate peace.

The PLO leaders said they "saluted the friendly Soviet port of our people's national and democratic stand in support of the rights of the Palestinian people."

Continued from page 1

lines and some diehard left-wingers traditionally critical of Mr Begin may support him tomorrow in the House. Coalition partners who will oppose include Mr Moshe Shamir, of Likud, who said on Monday night that it was no wonder that President Sadat had said self-determination for the Palestinians and not Sinai was the crux of the issue. He could afford to dismiss Sinai as a side issue because he already had it in his pocket, Mr Chamir said.

Mr Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Opposition, who is considered more moderate than Mr Begin, complained that the Prime Minister had been too magnanimous to Mr Sadat and had not left much elbow room for further negotiations.

Mr Shlomo Hillel, another Labour Party expert on Middle East affairs, charged Mr Begin with bad judgment in order to avoid dividing the West Bank with Jordan, as proposed by Labour. Mr Begin was proposing administrative autonomy, which could evolve into an independent Palestinian state in all of the West Bank, he said.

There was widespread disappointment over Mr Sadat's rejection of the offer of autonomy, but experienced observers said his acceptance could not have been expected. Headlines in Monday's Israeli newspapers that agreement had been reached on the outlines of peace had raised expectations here unrealistically.

Sober observers said the agreement to get down to the essentials in the military and political committees headed by ministers was a considerable achievement.

Senders in Sinai, who learnt that they will find themselves in Egyptian territory and protected by United Nations peace-keeping forces under the new plan, reacted bitterly yesterday. Residents of Yamit on the Mediterranean coast, barricaded themselves in their town. In the morning in a three-hour protest, a delegation, including immigrants from the Soviet Union and the United States, went to Jerusalem to demonstrate out-

side the Prime Minister's office. "I didn't come here from Miami Beach to live in Egypt," a shopkeeper said.

Cairo, Dec 27.—Egyptian officials today were working on counter-proposals for a peace settlement which will be submitted to the two joint committees.

Mr Moussa Sabri, editor of the Cairo newspaper *Al-Akhar*, said the political committee would begin work only when the military committee had completed its discussions.

As telling him: "We don't look with favour on the existence of a 'Palestinian' state which would be supplied with sophisticated arms by the Soviet Union, Syria, Iraq and others to strike at Israel."

President Sadat will have said the situation with Herzl Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, who arrived in Egypt on a 16-day visit today. Leading article, page 9.



Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Kamal (above) has been appointed Egypt's Foreign Minister to succeed Mr. Ismail Fahmy, who resigned over President Sadat's peace initiative with Israel. The appointment was made the day before the summit meeting opened in Ismailia. Mr. Kamal, a career diplomat, was previously ambassador to West Germany.

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Guest Column

And now a word on behalf of women

This week's guest column is by
Marjorie Duncan Holliswood

When a male birth is greeted with just a bit of rejoicing—"It's a boy"—what effect does this have on the female psyche? Does it, as I believe, subtly undermine women's confidence in their own worth? When a timid, fussy man is described as "a proper old woman", how do senior citizens (feminine gender) feel about the implied slight?

Words and phrases like these are unfair and unkind to women and typify a linguistic bias which is embodied in our everyday speech. For example, ambiguous language writes women's achievements out of the records.

References to *men* and *menkind* abound not only in the Bible but throughout our literature. Although *man* purports to include *women*, the generic term undoubtedly obscures women's part in history. What is more, the absence of a pronoun meaning both *he* and *she* makes it extremely difficult for even the most fair-minded of writers to give women their due. *Men* and *women*, *he* and *she* insensibly become *men* and *man*, and in no time at all, *he* is apparently, doing, making and creating everything. Women as innovators of civilization are lucky if they get so much as a mention in a footnote.

A similar obfuscation reigns with sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. Who has ever heard of a business entitled "...and Daughters", or seen a shop sign "...Sis"? Yet there are, and must have been, such undertakings in the centuries preceding the Industrial Revolution when women belonged to guilds, managed farms and ran businesses. Surnames ending in *ster*, *Brewster*, *Webster* and so on denote a female entrepreneur. Where have all the ladies gone?

To ambiguity is added sheer muddle.

Only can mean *solo* or *merely*. So what does "He only had daughters" convey? Is it a plain statement of fact or are we to pity the poor man for his bad luck? The same goes for *just*. Is "She's just a housewife" faintly disparaging, or isn't it?

Another kind of linguistic sleight of hand has contrived to throw doubt on women's mental capacity. Women have traditionally been bracketed with children—*women and children*. And *women, lunatics, vagabonds and thieves* were excluded from the vote. These juxtapositions have seemed to imply that women are somewhat weak in the head.

The trouble with words is that they are often loaded with unintended meanings. As language tends to lag behind advances in thinking and to perpetuate past attitudes. When the "National Council for Unmarried Mothers" rechristened itself "National Council for One Parent Families" it eliminated the stigmatising label. But the term has not entirely lost its sting. When a girl in court, say on a shoplifting charge, is described as "an unmarried mother" this is unlikely to help her defence. A young man would not be identified in this pejorative way. Similarly, newspaper reports often mention "a husband and his common-law wife". Why is it the woman who gets the label?

There is no doubt in my mind that a linguistic double standard exists which reflects other double standards, legal, social, economic and moral. The finger of scorn still points more readily at the female than the male. It is more reprehensible for a woman to be drunk; it is even, somehow, worse for a woman to be old. For the term *old woman* achieves parity of esteem with the affectionate *old*

man, it has to be upgraded socially to *old lady* or rejuvenated to *old girl*. The dictionary defines a prostitute as "a woman who offers her body for hire..." and allows the other party to the transaction to remain incognito. Roger's *Thesaurus* gives 60 words for females of easy virtue but only 22 for their male counterparts. And, apart from *fille de joie*, terms applying to women are considerably more unpleasant. Compare the repellent *slut*, *trull*, *drab*, *harlot*, *baggage* with the playful *rake*, *seducer*, *patron* and *gay deliverer*; *Jewels* with *Don Juan* or the *gay Lothario*.

Epithets from the animal kingdom carry more disgraceful undertones in the feminine than the masculine gender. As terms of abuse, *dog* and *cat* are mild compared to *bitch*, and would require further qualification to be equally offensive—*snivelling cur*, perhaps. Or contrast the affectionate *old cock* with the derisive *old hen*. Male appellations seem to be flatteringly linked with prowess—*bull*, *stallion*, *stag*. Female terms—*sow*, *old cow*, *vixen*, *cat* and *she-w*—suggest *snarl*, *redundancy* and a *poisonous* bad temper.

It may be thought that facts have been selected to suit the case. I don't think so. I am not denying that there are plenty of male rogues, villains, swine, rats and so on, or that there are virtues of endearment for women. What I am saying is that there is an overall imbalance. Women get more than their fair share of blame and castigation. One last example: there is no female equivalent for *misogynist*, hater of women. *Misandrist*: director of men by women is so rare as to be virtually unknown.

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During the past 10 years more than 1,200 patients have been discharged direct into the community from our four top security special hospitals—Broadmoor, Rampton, Moss Side and Park Lane—and to help former patients coming out of these special hospitals, The Matthew Trust has been set up.

The trust took its name from St Matthew's Gospel—largely because of the reference Jesus made in Chapter 25 "I was a stranger and you welcomed me... I was sick and you visited me... I was in prison and you came to me"—and is preparing itself to provide help in areas not fully covered by statutory services.

The Matthew Trust is, of course, in its infancy. Programmes for detailed research into the areas of special hospital patients finding themselves in on discharge are now being closely studied. Only one important study has been done in the past 10 years on the fate of this type of patient and this revealed that 35 per cent of ex-patients from special hospitals had been detained again within two years of discharge direct into the community—those that had been discharged via NHS hospitals were not included and, therefore, one can assume the re-detention rate is even higher.

The difficulties the probation and social welfare services experience, let alone voluntary organisations, are immense but need not necessarily follow up studies of patients have not been tackled systematically. The Matthew Trust hopes to resolve this particular issue by tracing, over a five-year period, the lives of some 50 ex-patients.

Getting this type of patient re-established is difficult, particularly when the family home is broken up and it is here that The Matthew Trust intends to spend much of its efforts, and with employers. Providing an indemnity bonding scheme to protect employers from defaulting ex-patients is an aim of The Matthew Trust especially for those former patients whose illness led to fraud, embezzlement and other similar offences.

Finding out why industry and the business community has such a fear of offenders with mental illness backgrounds

Giving released mental patients a better chance of success

is another priority of The Matthew Trust and the attitudes of the personnel managers, on learning of a special hospital background, will be evaluated in an attempt to educate them and to help discharged is still suffering from the effects of earlier illness.

The Matthew Trust has already been called upon by patients in some of the special hospitals to assist with legal representation at mental health review tribunals assisting, with employment and accommodation and acting as intermediaries in broken family situations. Many requests have also come from social workers and the probation service for similar assistance. The question of legal representation at tribunals is one of the main concerns of The Matthew Trust because special tribunals can have greater authority than the courts.

The Matthew Trust is studying the effectiveness of pre-release treatment and guidance in the four hospitals; £140 is spent a year on 2,000 patients in our four special hospitals, but little of this is devoted to reorientation programmes for discharge.

The Matthew Trust believes the special hospital authorities should prepare patients for discharge by giving them a six-week programme prior to discharge that covers employment, social awareness, residential and leisure briefings under the aegis of specialists in these areas coupled with the weekend excursions that patients already have prior to discharge.

Some do overcome discharge difficulties. One patient from Broadmoor Hospital took Civil Service exams and now has a senior position in the Home Office and another is a senior partner in a firm of chartered accountants, but these are exceptions to the rule. Most find settling down fraught with difficulties—particularly getting jobs—and invariably accept the inevitable life in a hostel and some mental job.

It is not generally appreciated that the type of patient coming out of the special hospitals is not always from a working class background. Quite frequently the patient may have held a commission in the services, been in a senior management position in industry or been an entrepre-

neur, schoolmaster or scientist. As the National Association for Mental Health (NAMI) has said before "Mental illness is not the sole prerogative of the working classes".

But whatever the social background the former patient still has adjustment problems. Hostels, like those provided by the Church Army, Langley Trust and others provide important support, but The Matthew Trust believes that group homes "are a more realistic solution. Six to ten patients living with each other and working during the day and supervised by staff retired from one or more of the special hospitals seems more to meet the need of those having had complicated psychiatric backgrounds.

Home and job found, the patient from a special hospital requires a greater degree of support than, perhaps the ex-prisoner, for a term of two or more years in a special hospital leaves its mark on the mental and emotional make-up of the ex-patient. When one has had to accept that trust, in terms of judgment, behaviour and social responsibility has been taken away for several years it is often terribly difficult to have total confidence on discharge and to resume a place in a busy, competitive society and to reacquire social skills that the average person takes for granted.

It is too easy for the professionals to say "what we need is an educational programme" to get the public to understand "for in the end the success of the patients total integration is dependant upon human contact and trusting relationships in which the ex-patient learns to grow again and mature to a point that he or she is like anyone else."

The Matthew Trust has no pretensions about the task ahead of it. Given the encouragement that it needs from the Department of Health and Social Services and from trusts, companies and individuals, the lot of the former patient from our four special hospitals might conceivably be more hopeful.

Peter Thompson

The author is Principal Trustee of the Matthew Trust

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 004059 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
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the Companies Act 1947 and in the Matter of
the Companies Act 1965
Notice is hereby given that by an
Order dated 23rd December 1977 the
Court has directed a Meeting to be
called for the purpose of the winding
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being wound up by the Court.
The Company is known as
"THE COMPANY" and its registered
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that the winding up of the Company
shall be conducted by the Registrar of
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The Registrar of Companies in the High
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PASTORAL MEASURE 1969
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provides for the appointment of
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A copy of the draft measure may be
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Why Congress bowed to the grand old lady of the Deep South

She streams majestically around a bend in the wide Mississippi river, like a ghostly presence from the past, her huge stern paddle churning the muddy waters and forcing her 1,650-ton bulk along at a stately 8 mph. But she is not a quiet ghost. You can hear her when she is still 10 miles away, and the cry "Riverboat's a-comin'" still brings riverfolk hurrying to the water's edge to await her arrival as they did in the days of Mark Twain.

She is the Delta Queen—the grand old lady of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, the last of the old-time steam driven riverboats, and a queen from the tip of her crooked funnel down to her teak floors and stained glass windows.

And she is afloat today because of the tenacity of a woman who loves her and who saved her from the breakers' yard by taking on the Washington bureaucrats and beating them at their own game.

The Delta Queen was built on the Clyde in the 1920s, and shipped out to the United States for use in the sheltered waters of San Francisco Bay. She was used as a troopship during the Second World War, then sold to what is now the Delta Queen Steamship Company for use on the Mississippi.

There her regal looks and stately progress quickly became a tourist attraction. Remodelled and refitted at a cost of \$750,000, she was the one remaining example of the taste and opulence of the old style riverboats, her wooden superstructure complete with teak handrails, ironbark flooring, copper-set stained glass windows, and lots of oak and mahogany paneling.

But in 1965, after disastrous fires on board two big passenger liners at sea, the United States Congress passed a law which looked like ending the Delta Queen's safety at sea. The law required that any vessel carrying more than 50 overnight passengers must be constructed entirely of steel—and lawyers decided to test this new rule extended to riverboats.

But they had reckoned without Mrs Betty Blake, who had joined the Delta Queen Steamship Company as a saleswoman and part-time PR director. Formerly with a television station doing sales promotion, and an admirer of show business techniques, Mrs Blake felt at home on the river and among the riverfolk. She loved the tradition and language of the Mississippi—and she determined that the Delta Queen should not die.

"I went around the country and cold everybody about the boat," she says. She wrote to Congressmen and broadcasting stations and everyone influential that she could think of. She organized protest rallies, knocked on Senators' doors,

and telephoned newspaper editors. Even *The Times* was moved to print a leading article defending the Delta Queen.

"It would have been ridiculous to scrap such a lovely boat," Mrs Blake says, now a vivacious 47-year-old with the light of battle still in her eyes. "She is a floating antique. It was stupid to say that the law extended to her. After all, we are always in sight of land."

Mrs Blake's campaign paid off—at least for the present. The vessel was declared a national historic landmark, and Congress bowed to the pressure of public opinion by deciding that the Delta Queen should be exempt from the new law until 1983.

Today Mrs Blake is president of the Delta Queen Steamship Company, and as much a heroine along the river as the Delta Queen herself. "There is no prejudice on the river," she says. "The river man is a farmer, not a tough old salt. If you can do the job, they respect you."

The respect, tradition, too. Although the Mississippi Queen, the Delta Queen's steel-bulk sister ship, is popular, it is the Delta Queen which draws the crowds to the levee (the cobbled area at the water's edge) in towns like New Orleans, St Louis, Pittsburgh, Nashville and Cincinnati. They want to see the traditional crown funnels, hear the joyous notes of the calliope (or steam piano) which carry 10 miles, and watch the stage being lowered.

"Stage" is river-talk for gang-plank, and is so called because it is where the crews of the old boats used to put on impromptu shows for plantation workers.

The river has a language of its own that has few similarities to accepted nautical terms. Ship-to-ship signals are based on whistles, so even the sides of the boat are the one-whistle side and the two-whistle side instead of port and starboard.

Mrs Blake, and thousands of her fellow enthusiasts, determined that these traditions should remain alive. In fact, the only thing missing for the Delta Queen's 12,000 passengers a year is a real riverboat gambler of the kind seen in a score of American films.

"We travel through several states which forbid gambling," Mrs Blake explains. "But we do have pretense gamblers, and bingo players, and all the other things that you would expect. We try to recreate what they did on the old riverboats—that kind of entertainment instead of the modern And we try to teach people the history of the river, of steamboats, and of the Civil War."

"What we need now is legislation to permanently exempt the Delta Queen from the Safety at Sea law. It is so important to preserve these things."

Robin Mead

Three cautionary tales for admirers of the great Workers' State

Bernard Levin

I have made clear on more than one occasion my view that the TUC's greatest single betrayal of its own *détente*, and of the interests of those they represent, had nothing to do with British domestic, economic or political matters, but was represented by the fawning welcome they extended to Alexander Sholepin, the man whose job was to crush any attempt on the part of Soviet workers to express their grievances.

After that betrayal by the democrats, led by Mr Len Murray, the activities of the communists' fellow-travellers, even Mr Alex Kitson, can hardly be wondered at, or indeed complained about, if your friends stab you in the back you will hardly feel the kicks of your enemies. Yet I sometimes wonder whether the layers of complacency and self-satisfaction in which Mr Murray is wrapped are in fact entirely impenetrable, like those of Mr Oliver Jenkins, say, rather suspect that they are not, and that to this day he occasionally feels shame at his behaviour on the occasion I have referred to, when it could indeed be said that:

He all things common did and mean. Upon that memorable scene. Anyway, even if he does not blush, it is not necessarily true that he cannot, and today I would like to offer him, and indeed many more in and around the British Labour Movement, a tiny vignette of what the workers' life in the Workers' State is actually like. The facts are not offered to the Communists and fellow-travellers:

they know perfectly well what life is like in the Soviet Union, and are ever-busy about their work of ensuring that the latter becomes a welfare state, the same in Britain. But Mr Murray, after all, is not to be numbered among this crew, even though he is also not to be numbered with the Frank Chapple who are actually working to ensure that the crew do not succeed in their task, and it is therefore in the hope that he may be persuaded to think twice next time it is about to commit so egregious and disgraceful a folly as he did over the Sholepin visit that I venture to draw to his attention an item he might have missed.

A little while ago, a very remarkable gathering—indeed, it was quite unprecedented took place in Moscow. A group of Soviet workers—not intellectuals, artists, political dissidents or Jews wishing to emigrate, but ordinary workers, among whom were a few women, met, apparently by their own request, a group of American correspondents based there. The story they had to tell was remarkable enough as I shall shortly make clear, but it did not concern the Soviet Union, but violations of human rights in the field of free speech or worship, free movement or the division of families, free artistic expression or emigration.

It concerned—why it is hard to say—Len Murray to whose attention I am drawing it—the complaints of Soviet workers about their work, and what happened to them when they tried to present those complaints in the

appropriate quarters—such as to their "trade union" representatives.

The coal-miner, for instance, Vladimir Kelbanov by name, was a foreman in a potash pit. Because of the impossible productivity norms Soviet miners are compelled to meet, which, if anyone suggested introducing them here, would bring out on permanent strike such few British miners as had not died of shock on hearing the details, miners in Soviet pits often have to work a 12-hour day. Not unnaturally, they become tired; not unnaturally, this leads to a high level of accidents. In Mr Kelbanov's pit alone, he said, the death-rate was from 12 to 15 a year, and the injuries from 600 to 700. Mr Kelbanov was worried, perhaps even indignant at the risk to his men. So he complained. And did the mighty voice of the Soviet Mineworkers' Union then thunder about the callousness of the Soviet Coal Board, were questions asked in the Supreme Soviet, did *Pravda* write fierce leading articles calling for an inquiry and the punishment of those responsible, did Mr Len Murray's "opposite number" demand that the Government should set? Well, I do not need to answer those questions; but what you may like to know was what actually happens to a Soviet workingman, with formal responsibility for a group of his fellow-workers, if he makes representations about the bad working-conditions they undergo. Mr Kelbanov was sacked, and put in a mental hospital for over four years. Then there was Mrs Kurakina, the

waitress. She had worked for 25 years in a restaurant reserved for the party squires and their friends—no mixing with the common workers for them, you understand—and had in her time served Brezhnev, Kosygin and Fidel Castro. She discovered that the functionaries who ran the restaurant were running a corruption ring, they stashed up equipment and recorded it as having been broken. No doubt that sort of thing happens in Britain, too; but I rather doubt that the sequel does, for the racketeers, apparently obliged under the Soviet system to make good such losses, were docking the wages of staff to whom the falsified receipts in their reports, the breaking of the things they had themselves stolen.

Mrs Kurakina complained, to a "union" meeting of restaurant workers: guess the name of a Soviet ex-waitress who is now out of a job, along with her husband, unable to get work of any kind and deprived of her pension rights.

Next to speak was Anatol Poznyakov, a locksmith. He was on wages of 75 roubles a month, which is rather less than £22 a week. Dissatisfied with this princely stipend, and heedless of Mr Brezhnev's appeal to Soviet workers and employers to keep within recommended pay guidelines, he asked for a rise. He was told by officials of his local party organization that his station in life was "to eat from a pig's trough", and it was made clear to him that he had better not raise his head from it. But he failed to

heed the warning, was dismissed, and now subsists on a medical disability payment (roughly £5 a week) together with what his mother can spare from her pension (roughly £13 a week). When he went to the authorities of the institute at which he had worked, asking for help, he was, eloquently told: "If you can, live if you can't die."

A group of 38 Soviet workers, including Mr Kelbanov, have recently signed a petition describing the "repressions...plundering of people's dignity...measures of terror used to frighten honest citizens" in the field of work. They have brought the document to the attention of the Soviet authorities, and 18 arrests are expected shortly. But if anyone in the British trades union movement, not already too far gone in service to Soviet Communism, could spare a moment to contemplate the implications of this story—and the courageous spokesmen of the workers insist that the conditions to which they drew attention are common throughout Soviet industry—the fundamental difference between tyranny and freedom may begin to take shape in their minds, and the next time an invitation is extended by the TUC to a representative of the Soviet workers, it might perhaps go to one who would not be so ready to get on their knees and persecute them for objecting to the denial.

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The extraordinary conflict in Hongkong in the fight against police corruption

Police demonstrated in the streets calling on the commissioner to resign. Then they took industrial action and 'mutinied'

Hongkong is very experienced in turning a blind eye to unwelcome or inconvenient issues. Resting with surprising stability on a combination of Anglo-Saxon and Confucian hypocrisy, Hongkong will just as long as it can choose to observe the terms of nineteenth-century agreements which it has denounced as invalid, "unequal" treaties.

It is quite within keeping that representatives of the People's Republic have recently dropped a series of hints that far from prematurely terminating the lease on the new territories before its due date in 1997, Peking might well allow Hongkong to sail on into the twenty-first century—although possibly under a slightly altered flag of convenience.

London, it is rumoured in the highest circles, is thinking of appointing a politician to replace the present Governor, Sir Murray Maclehoze, a former diplomat. His successor's main job (apart from continuing with the welcome programme of expanded expenditures on housing, education, social welfare and the quality of life) will be to help cobble up an agreement on Hongkong's future.

For it is unlikely that overseas or even local investors will be satisfied with China's winks and nudges. All three parties involved—Hongkong, London and Peking—would probably prefer not to grasp the nettle. But something better than the present unwritten gentlemen's agreement will be necessary to maintain business confidence past the mid-eighties.

The same three parties would like to bury their heads in the sand in the hope that another major problem—corruption—will go away. Sir Murray, once reluctantly persuaded of the scope of graft, parted from Hongkong tradition in tackling the issue head-on. The Independent Commission on Corruption (ICC) was set up in 1974.

Corruption has always existed in the business community (in the form of kick-backs, "commissions" but as Hongkong is an efficient free port it is concentrated among the relatively few government departments which dispense valuable contracts and those with daily contacts with

the public, particularly the Royal Hongkong Police force. The police thus became the primary target of ICC. Its establishment represented a triumph over the comfortable European assumption that while small-scale corruption exists among the rank and file and even among the senior non-commissioned officers (that is, among Chinese) that corruption among the exalted gentry officials was the exception rather than the rule.

It is now overwhelmingly accepted in Hongkong that the great majority of policemen are corrupt, whatever their rank.

Over the last year ICC's investigations have begun to bite. Large corruption syndicates, collecting protection money from those running gambling dens, brothels and in the police ranks, were identified. Files were sent to the Attorney-General, Mr John Hobley, and dozens of policemen were arrested, arrested charged.

The arrests, however, had full access to their police colleagues—in stations, police messes and married quarters. As ICC's net spread, a campaign was mounted within the ranks of the police against the commission's methods and alleged abuses of its considerable powers (in corruption cases, guilt is assumed unless those apparently possessed of excessive power can explain how it was amassed).

Apparently the highest levels of government were unaware of the resentment smouldering in the police ranks. On October 5, 1977, the governor stated that the force deserved "all honour" for the way in which it had "improved its professional performance and its public image" while the workings of the corrupt was going on.

He went on to pay a tribute to the police leaders. Within a month, the police had mustered.

The attack on October 28 on the ICC headquarters by an angry mob of serving and retired policemen came as no surprise. Protest marches had been going on since July, and before the assault thousands of rank and file officers had organized mass rallies and picket lines against ICC methods and the lack of

legal representation for junior officers.

According to the authorized version, nothing much happened between October 28 and November 5, when the governor received the report of the dozen police officers, the acting commander of British forces and other senior officials at Government House to be told that the 17,000-strong police force was out of control and would not respond to orders.

The Governor asked whether the army could step in but was told that of a total force of 7,500 there were only four infantry battalions, three of which were Gurkhas (most of whom do not speak English, never mind Cantonese).

Unfortunately that evening the governor was making a pre-recorded appearance on local television reporting the situation. He said the police morale was good. About an hour later he appeared again—this time to announce a surrender to the forces of corruption.

An amnesty had been granted for all corrupt crimes committed before January 1, 1977, with the exception only of those against whom warrants had already been issued or who were already under investigation. Those who had fled abroad to escape prosecution and crimes so heinous that the governor himself would approve prosecution.

For most of Hongkong, however, the November 5 confrontation with the majority of the police had held meetings behind closed doors and formed committees to coordinate their demands (including permission

to form what amounted to trade unions with the right to strike).

They then took to the streets in demonstrations and parades, calling on the police commissioner, Mr Brian Levin, to resign. By the end of the week they were taking industrial action (manifesting mutiny in a disciplined force) using their own two-way radio communications to issue instructions to men on the beat to take no action against parking offences and against hawkers.

Anyone, including the governor, who argues that a small corrupt minority had been manipulating an innocent majority must have been disillusioned by the triumphant demonstrations of "police power" which followed the amnesty, accompanied by demands that the police should be total and threats to march on Government House.

Two days later the governor summoned the legislative council to discuss the right of the commissioner to resign.

The governor has now reported to London, a procedure complicated by the lack of understanding and the preconceptions about Hongkong

which colour the judgments of Westminster and the Foreign Office.

Mr Jack Cater, ICAC boss, is to follow the governor to London early in the New Year. It is unlikely to cleave to the official line that the amnesty represents simply an acceleration of a move planned anyway and that it has not been a body blow to the work of the commission.

Less than a year ago Mr Cater had conservatively estimated that the money taken by syndicates of corrupt civil servants (particularly policemen) amounted to over £125m a year, and had designated 1977 as the year that counts. But only 250 policemen have been brought to court since 1974, of which 125 were convicted and 79 acquitted.

Another 80 men—mostly police officers—are on ICC's wanted list with warrants issued against 36 (most are believed to be hiding in Taiwan, Canada, the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom).

Well-informed sources within ICAC know that the big syndicates are far from broken and, now the amnesty has been given, will probably reform and get back into business.

The role of the Attorney General, Mr John Hobley, in all this has been difficult. He has decided to prosecute on evidence brought to him by the ICC, and a large proportion of acquittals have been accompanied by criticism from the bench about the quality of the evidence used by the witnesses brought against the accused.

He decided that enough evidence existed to prosecute only one man allegedly involved in the assault against ICAC headquarters (although the police have insisted disciplinary inquiries involving 11 allegedly involved).

No one doubts Mr Hobley's integrity and his caution, in view of remarks from the bench, is understandable. But the sad fact is that the majority of the people of Hongkong do not believe that he took his decisions freely.

The Attorney General of Hongkong is not a politician, as in Britain. He is a civil servant and is subject to the governor's authority.

Lawyers have questioned whether constitutionally he can accept a directive from the governor not to proceed against civil servants against whom a prima facie case of pre-1977 corruption is established, either by ICAC or by a private citizen, who could seek an order of mandamus requiring action in such a case.

Others point out that ICAC ordinance establishes that the governor and only the governor shall control the actions of the ICAC commissioner. Even if the governor was constitutionally justified in granting an amnesty without prior consultation either with Hongkong's executive and legislative councils or with London, some think it would still be possible to revoke the amnesty, as a promise extracted under duress.

Sir Murray Maclehoze is a determined man who put his faith in a police force and its leaders, failed to inform him about the state of morale in the ranks and the full impact of ICAC's inquiries.

Now the governor has recommended to London that at least 40 or 50 senior police officers should be hired from the United Kingdom and brought into the local police to help ICAC clean the force which has managed to blackmail its commissioner, the governor and the community into at least temporary submission.

The philosophy of the Hongkong Government is generally that of nineteenth-century laissez faire mercantilism. Although Hongkong's growth into a major industrial trading and financial centre has forced the government into reluctant intervention in many aspects of Hongkong life (from regulating banks and the stock exchange to the massive supply of low cost public housing), the Hongkong Government cleaves to the theory that it is best to leave the market forces to operate freely, its main function being to "hold the ring"—to provide a stable framework within which a free market economy can operate. On November 5 the grip on the ring slipped.

Derek Davies
The author is Editor of the Far East Economic Review.

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Geraldine Norman on the greatest challenge of our age...

The machines and inventions that have made slaves of us all

The decades that spanned the 19th century were the heyday of the reform movements—Catholic emancipation, parliamentary reform, abolition of the slave trade, to name just a few. Weighty and clamorous were the voices that called for the rights of old abuses.

Meanwhile, under the noses of the reformers but unnoticed, the industrial revolution was creating intolerable physical conditions and suffering, degrading abuses of humanity which it was to take another century and a half to set right.

In Britain, at least, industrial society no longer poses a serious threat to the physical wellbeing of the community. Extreme poverty, where it survives, is generally a matter of incompetence rather than exploitation—an inability to understand forms or fill them in, an inability to discover at what offices and when you can collect the benefits due to you under the welfare state.

Nonetheless, reformist zeal and the claims of reformers are still mainly concentrated on issues concerning the physical wellbeing of various aggrieved subgroups of the population.

In this, to my mind, we are proving as blind as our ancestors. With lights and shades, we have earned the right to new technologies and machines in a manner which avoids the physical degradation of those

who work with them; we have not advanced past the consideration of the spiritual degradation of living with these technologies.

Spiritual is an old-fashioned word and I use it for lack of a suitable modern term to summarize the frustration, alienation, boredom, nervous pressure and insecurity in the modern world.

We have invented new machines and technologies of a sophistication that would have appeared miraculous even 100 years ago, adapted them to the physical capacities of the men who work with them, but given little or no thought to the psychological effects of working with them, either on individuals or groups of individuals.

We are the slaves of our machines and inventions; we have no idea of how to control their effect on society.

This to my mind is the central challenge of our age—to learn to control and use our technologies to create an environment as conducive as possible to the happiness of the individuals who live in it.

No political party would quarrel with that aim but they are so busy quarrelling over how to control the problems of inflation, housing, unemployment, further education, devolution and school milk that

they have no time to look for the spiritual degradation of living with these technologies.

As priorities go, industry must today come top of the list. Not only does it provide the majority of the jobs of the population but the daily life of everyone in the country, whatever their field of endeavour, is dependent on its products from books and sausages to aeroplanes. Unless industry is running smoothly these products will cease to be shoddy.

And industry will not run smoothly unless its central problem is recognized to exist, and tackled explicitly. In other words industry must be made a decent environment for responsible, gregarious, emotional and sensitive people to work in, and with, and with satisfaction.

In my view there are three key issues which require to be tackled. The first is sometimes called ergonomics—in other words, the design of machinery which will use the mental and physical capacity of the operator and help rather than hinder good group working relationships.

In other words a major research and development programme should be launched into technologies which treat their human operators as complete human beings, not extra physical components.

The second key issue concerns the status of the worker. Much has been written about the alienation and loss of identity which tends to be suffered by those who work for vast organizations. But although it is a reasonably fashionable topic for discussion, governments have so far tended to encourage rather than discourage amalgamations.

Nationalization is still high on the Labour Party's list of priorities while the Conservatives woo big business. Tax incentives designed to encourage the break up of big business empires should not be difficult to devise: it has now been repeatedly demonstrated that size and economic efficiency do not necessarily go hand in hand. There is no reason to suppose that a trend back to small operational units, if flexibly encouraged, would have any adverse effect on our overall economic performance.

The third issue is perhaps the most fundamental and controversial. I believe that we should try to encourage worker ownership of industrial concerns. Industry requires two inputs, labour and capital, in order to operate.

Traditionally it has been run by and for those who put up the capital and who can simply buy the labour they require. The capitalists are the owners, the bosses, and all the residual

profits go into their pockets.

As a result of the power of the trade unions, the traditional structure is being undermined. Not only do the union chapels take care that a good share of the profits go into wage increases, they not infrequently demand increases which rule out the possibility of running profitably. Not unnaturally this discourages the flow of capital into industry and Britain is now said to be suffering from chronic underinvestment.

Many schemes have been mooted to give workers a greater say in how their company is run and a share in the profits. It makes an effort to strike a mutually beneficial balance between the interests of capital and labour without both of which industry cannot operate.

Since labour now effectively has the upper hand, there seems little prospect of workers sending for a smaller share. And the share that they do get is getting, in general, allowed little or no return on capital in real terms.

This leads me to doubt the value of compromise "participation" schemes. Worker ownership provides a more clear-cut solution: all residual profits remain with the workers, either as wages or dividends. Moreover, the knowledge that their own capital is at risk will

give them a powerful incentive, as workers, to see that their operation remains profitable.

The prime objection to this suggestion is that it will not work. Producer cooperatives have not proved notably successful in the past. And it is here that I must declare my interest, indeed my reason for writing on this subject at all.

A report entitled *Worker Owners: The Mondragon Achievement* was published by the Anglo-German Foundation last month and I was one of the authors.

The highly successful group of industrial cooperatives based on Mondragon in Spain were worker owned. The sensitive, balanced structures that they have developed have given them a sound basis for running middle technology industries in Spain.

Though there are lights and shades there seems a good chance that these structures could be imitated elsewhere. They could provide the basis for transferring a considerable section of our industry, at least into worker ownership in an economically viable manner. I will describe the remarkable achievement at Mondragon in a second article.

Published by the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society, £2.90.

(To be continued)



AFTER ISMAILIA

After their whirlwind courtship President Sadat and Mr Begin are having trouble getting down to a working relationship. Both seem disappointed with their Christmas meeting. The magic is going out of their affair and they are now having to confront fundamental differences. But this is neither surprising nor reason for despair. Nobody expected a fully polished agreement to emerge from the meeting. The best that could be hoped for was evidence of willingness to go on talking seriously about a peace settlement, and that is what emerged. Political and military commissions will now get to work and report to the Cairo meeting in January. Meanwhile, the search goes on for bridges between the two positions. Only a formidable psychological breakthrough could have generated so much activity in so short a time, and there is still no reason why it need fizzle out.

Yet the gulf between the two positions is indeed wide, especially over the future of the West Bank. Mr Begin has offered self-rule for twenty years, after which a tripartite committee representing Jordan, Israel and the people of the West Bank would decide the future subject, however, to a veto by any one of the three parties. Meanwhile Israel would retain the right of settlement as well as responsibility for security and foreign affairs. This is a long way from the full statehood demanded by President Sadat. If he is to have any hope of getting wider Arab

support for a settlement he will need a good deal more. To leave the final question pending for twenty years with an Israeli veto looming at the end is not really a settlement at all.

Mr Begin must know this but how far can he move? He has already moved some way from the positions he stated when he was elected. To go all the way to meet President Sadat would mean almost totally contradicting himself. He could probably afford to do so if he could offer the Israeli people a sufficiently convincing peace settlement in exchange. This has been made more difficult by the divisions among the Arabs. Had they united they could not only have exerted enormous pressure on Israel but they could also have offered reasonable assurances that a settlement would be honoured. As it is, although no full settlement would come into effect without wider participation, the uncertainty sown by the Arab rejectionists makes it that much more difficult for the Israelis to reconsider their position. All the justified Israeli fears which President Sadat has tried so hard to remove have been dropped up again. A more self-defeating position than that of the rejectionists would be hard to imagine.

This appears to leave President Sadat with the temptation to go for a quick settlement of those issues which he can settle with Israel, notably the status of Sinai, but this is not practical politics. Among other things he is very dependent on the Gulf states, and although they very much want peace, especially peace which keeps the Russians out—they do not want deeper splits in the

Arab world. Any agreement between President Sadat and Mr Begin must therefore be one which it is reasonable to expect other states to accept in due course when tempers have cooled down. But this does not mean that President Sadat should now follow Mr Begin's advice and turn his attention to negotiating a united Arab position. In the present situation it could hardly be anything but a waste of time. All interested parties were invited to Cairo and presumably the door remains open to any who wish to change their minds about attending. Those who stay away have excluded themselves for the moment and cannot expect President Sadat to divert himself from the main task of working on Israel to take on the far more daunting task of getting agreement among Arabs who show no interest.

The key decisions must still be made by and with Israel. The problem is how to give the Palestinians a homeland that would not pose a threat to Israeli security. Mr Begin seems to think that this can be achieved only if Israel retains responsibility for security in the West Bank. This is not necessarily the case. An Israeli presence might exacerbate tension and provoke insecurity, whereas the Palestinians living on the spot, who have as great an interest in peace as the Israelis, might be able to police themselves more effectively. Obviously Israel will need more than promises if she is to feel secure. At this stage it does not seem impossible to work out something which goes further to meet President Sadat's position yet does not expose Israel to real insecurity.

THE RIGHTS AND WRONGS OF STRIKING

Industrial disputes and the damage they do seem to be always with us these days. The economic damage is familiar enough by now—the delays in production, the extra cost, the inefficiency. But there is also the social cost: the damage that is done to a society when any group is prepared to press its interests regardless of the hurt it may inflict. How far is it morally permissible for the parties to an industrial dispute to go? Is any hurt to be justified by reference to the right to strike in a free society, with the logical if brutal addendum that it is no use having the right if one cannot cause pain in exercising it? Or are there limits that ought to be set by the moral pressure of a humane society?

Such questions are bound to provoke increasing concern as one hears of the hardship caused by one struggle after another. A leading article in the current issue of the Church of Scotland magazine *Life and Work* suggests that it is time for the Church to speak on the Christian's duty in industrial and professional conflict. It is appropriate that this proposal should come from such a quarter

because the Church of Scotland has traditionally been especially concerned with the examination of social issues, but the questions are of such broad consequence for society as a whole that if such a study is to be set up it would be best if representatives from other Churches could be associated with it.

As the article points out, often "the victims of Britain's new tribalism are not those who are most involved but those who are most vulnerable". The theory of the strike is that it is a weapon to be used by workers against their employer in furtherance of an industrial dispute with him. By withdrawing their labour they make it impossible for him to continue his activity in full if at all and thereby engage him in a direct trial of economic strength. But in practice the strike weapon seems to be used increasingly as a means of hurting the general public and thereby inducing them to bring pressure to bear on the employer. Sometimes the employer and the general public are hurt as a means of exerting pressure on the government. One of the principal purposes of any examination by the Church of Churches should be to consider whether these, or indeed

any other, indirect uses of industrial power can be morally justifiable.

There are a good many other practices, such as the closed shop, which would need to be looked at but should not only be the industrial unions that should be brought under scrutiny. In recent years such professional groups as doctors and teachers have adopted tactics which previous generations would have thought incompatible with their duty to society. Is there need for a new discipline to be enforced in this instance not in law but in public expectation, between those who do and those who do not have a moral right to strike? Is it also necessary to determine how far certain occupations may legitimately be "employed" practices too should not pass unnoticed. But if an examination of this sort is to have value it must not seek to balance criticism of unions with complaints against employers just to show that the Church is not prejudiced. The only justification for one more committee would be if it were fearlessly to focus attention on practices which in their effects often do not appear to be consistent with a moral society.

FUNNY MAN

Romantic fancy makes the clown a deep philosopher: behind the comic mask, a tragic sensibility; wrapped in the foolery, a commentary on the human condition; confined in the hunchback's house, a beautiful and beloved daughter. Charlie Chaplin, the peerless clown of the early cinema, made his own contribution to that kind of assessment of himself. In middle age Chaplin let slip the actor's mask. The "little man" of the early Hollywood productions grew into the little man with a message. His films, longer now and making conditional surrender to the talkies, became satires, on big industry, or big dictators, or the America of un-American activities.

BAOR shortages

From Commander Christian Eliot
Sir, With reference to Charles Douglas Home's article about deficiencies in BAOR equipment (December 14), Britain is heavily criticised by NATO allies for her lack of close range air defence weapons. The Rapier SAMs are few and far between and, not being track mounted, have difficulty in keeping up with armoured vehicles. The hand held Blowpipe missile is in short supply and in any case is ineffective against any target aircraft other than one coming straight towards you.

However, missiles are not the only weapons that can be used. The Egyptian manned, Soviet quick firing 23mm guns proved very effective in the Yom Kippur war, as the Israelis found to their cost. As a result all of the Nato nations in central Europe, with the exception of Britain, are taking urgent steps to equip themselves with similar weapons so that they can accompany the troops, and particularly the tanks, in the field.

Germany has 150 Gepard anti-aircraft track mounted guns and 300 more on order. The Netherlands has 95 on order and Belgium 55. France has a number of AMX30 chassis with two quick firing guns mounted on them and is developing a rocket AA system mounted on a vehicle. America has her mobile Vulcan gun system with the astonishing rate of fire of 3,000 rounds per minute. Britain has no mobile quick firing guns at all, while the British Army would dearly like some, there

are no funds with which to procure them. This gross deficiency was recently commented upon by the Parliamentary reference and External Affairs Committee who remarked: "We are concerned with the inadequacy of the air defence of forward troops in BAOR" and then went on to spell it out in detail.

Bearing in mind that the Soviets have greatly increased the number of their tactical aircraft for the very purpose of striking at troops and armour, BAOR would seem to be in a highly dangerous situation, quite apart from all the other deficiencies mentioned in your article.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTIAN ELIOT, Cdr,
High Chimneys,
Westwood Road,
Widlesham,
Dorset.
December 14.

The choice of Maplin

From the Chairman of Essex County Council
Sir, In his letter (December 16) Derrick Wood, whilst acknowledging the possibility of his personal bias on this subject, again refers to his views on the effect of the Government's withdrawal of the Maplin proposal. Whatever the merits of the national reasons for and against the withdrawal of Maplin may have been at the time, once it has been decided that the Essex site remains clear inspite of the chronic shortage of jobs in this area continues with unemployment currently

twice that of the average for South East England. The economic advantages of Maplin to Essex London may or may not have existed, what is certain is that the consequences of the withdrawal of the Maplin project has made it urgently necessary to provide a new employment base to serve the residents in South Essex. In the absence of the Maplin project the Essex Structure Plan which is being prepared reinforces this problem and urges that a full range of sites suitable for industrial development be made available so that no investigation or job opportunity should be lost through inability to provide an appropriate site at the right time.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY G. BARNETT,
Chairman,
Essex County Council,
County Hall,
Chelmsford.
December 23.

A wealth tax

From Professor G. J. Whitrow
Sir, I see that, if returned to office, the Labour Party proposes to introduce a wealth tax. It is not high time that the trades unions, who have instigated this policy, should themselves be taxed? Yours faithfully,
G. J. WHITROW,
Department of Mathematics,
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Huxley Building,
Queen's Gate, SW7.
December 20.

The reforming of Parliament

From Sir William Hayter
Sir, Parliament is constantly setting up committees to reform institutions, such as the City, the Law or the Foreign Office, which for the most part function more efficiently than Parliament itself. No one sets up a committee to reform Parliament. Yet it is always making an ass of itself, and sometimes, as over the European elections, makes asses of all the rest of us as well. When Parliament sets up a committee to reform an institution it usually, quite properly, composes it of members not directly involved in the institution itself. Yet it seems to think that only parliamentarians can reform Parliament. The feature of parliamentary attempts to do so is glaringly obvious from the Crossman diaries. But one cannot imagine Parliament agreeing to set up a committee of non-parliamentarians to reform Parliament, or accepting its recommendations if it did. But an ass can force a right on a committee on sovereign Parliament. The problem seems insoluble. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM HAYTER,
Bessett's House,
Sutton, St John,
Oxford.
December 17.

The Star of Bethlehem

From the Bishop of Kingston
Sir, I am interested that the Three Wise Men from the West are aware that others before them had written possible Chinese references to the Star of Bethlehem (Letters, December 23). I was misled by a strange lack of any acknowledgment of these references in their article in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society. I was also surprised by their statement in the Journal: "We have translated the Babylonian cuneiform almanac for the year 305 of the Seleucid era." I am sure that no other astronomers have subjected themselves to the rigorous discipline of learning cuneiform. Others like myself who have interested themselves in such matters have had to use Schabert's translation of *Ziashen's* (1925), which, like the Chinese references, is not mentioned in the article. Yours faithfully,
HUGH KINGSTON,
High Lodge,
23 Bellevue Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW17.
December 23.

From Dr Christopher Cullen
Sir, I am afraid that the self-styled Three Wise Men from the West have inadvertently added a certain amount of confusion to the subject of the Star of Bethlehem in Far Eastern records. In reply to the Bishop of Kingston they state that they ignored the record he mentions in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society, did they? The much less reliable record of this event in the Korean *Samsuk-sagi* (c 1145 AD)? As is its habit, this book copies the Han-Shu record of the *po-hsing*, but through a misreading of the Chinese characters, rather than writing February 31, Clark et al puzzle over this at length, as if quite unaware of the original Han-Shu entry which they do not mention. Perhaps the three wise astronomers should have troubled to consult some wise sinologists before setting out on their well-publicized quest. Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER CULLEN,
Clare Hall,
Cambridge.
December 23.

Women barristers

From Miss Mary Colton
Sir, I am of course pleased that the Senate (of the Inns of Court and the Bar) has just set up the Equal Opportunities Committee referred to in the letter from Mr David Hirst, QC (December 19). This is, however, the second such committee, the earlier one having been set up by the Bar Council and the latter by the Inns of Court in 1972. That questionnaire, like the present one, suffered from the limitation that lack of records prevented it from being sent to those women who had failed to get into chambers at all. The answers did, nevertheless, reveal areas of concern, but no action was taken, because no further meetings of the committee were convened. The committee was dissolved without notification of the fact to its members, of whom I was one. The Sex Discrimination Act has now been in force for nearly two years, and I am not aware of any action taken by the Senate prior to the setting up of the committee in October. Naturally I hope that this committee will be more effective than its predecessor, but it is still the position that no official guidance has been given to those members which restrict the entry of women. Yours faithfully,
MARY COLTON,
4 Brick Court,
Temple, EC4.
December 19.

Safeguarding the otter

From Dr Bernard L. Cohen
Sir, I have never seen a wild otter, but can recognize wild statistics. Mr Bennett's dam (Letters, December 19) on the frequency of otter finds by his hunt are worthless unless he can rebut the assumption that all 27 animals found in 1977 were the same one or few individuals. The worst case analysis of his data is that in 1977 his hunt's area contained at least one otter, compared with at least 23 in 1957. Yours faithfully,
BERNARD L. COHEN,
11 Lochend Drive,
Beardsden,
Glasgow.
December 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appeals against lenient sentences

From Mr M. J. Rose

Sir, It would be wrong of me to comment in detail on case 36, *Manchester Crown Court* in which Mr Justice Lawson passed sentence of one year's imprisonment for the manslaughter of a policeman's son, as I know no more of the facts than were reported in your pages on December 16. However, this is only the latest of an increasing number of cases in which there has been public comment on the apparent inadequacy of sentences passed by judges for what appear, on the face of it, to be serious offences. Whilst the defendant, in modern times, has had a right of appeal against a sentence which he considers to be too harsh, no concomitant right exists for the prosecution to appeal against a sentence which might be too lenient. Indeed, it was only with the passing of Section 36, *Criminal Justice Act, 1972* that the prosecution was enabled to refer a case to the Court of Appeal where a judge's mistaken view of the law had led to a wrongful acquittal in the lower court. This right, it should be said, is severely circumscribed and does not affect the position of the individual defendant.

There is no procedure in English law whereby justice who imposes a sentence which does not meet the circumstances of a case can be corrected by a higher court. Such a procedure exists in many countries, including a number of our neighbours. The English system is not notably less civilised than our own. Whilst it is proper too harshly by the courts should be able to have his sentence reconsidered by another tribunal, there is a strong argument that the same right should exist for the prosecution. A sentence which is too harsh

affects one individual whilst a sentence which is too lenient affects the whole of society, not least by giving the appearance to others that the law is incapable of properly protecting the property and persons of all citizens.

One would not wish to see a situation in which every sentence could be challenged by the prosecution, nor should the proper and considered exercise of mercy in individual cases be a subject for debate. However, growing public disquiet on this issue could be met by a provision whereby the prosecution would, in certain strictly defined and limited situations, be enabled to challenge the original sentence as being grossly insufficient. It ought legitimately to be a matter for public discussion as to whether such a right of appeal should enable the appellate court to impose an additional penalty on the individual defendant or whether the prosecution should be entitled simply to ask for a declaration that the sentence was, in fact, inadequate. The latter procedure, similar to that under Section 36 mentioned above, would at least have the merit of reassuring the public that the courts as a whole were aware of the inadequacy of the original sentence and that guidance would be given to judges as to how they ought to treat similar cases in future.

It is to be hoped that the recently established Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure will be asked to consider this issue. Yours faithfully,
M. J. ROSE, County Prosecuting Solicitor,
Yorkshire County Council,
Belgrave House,
47 Bank Street,
Sheffield.
December 19.

A future for crofting

From the Chairman of the Crofters Commission

Sir, My attention has been drawn to the article in *The Times* of November 30 which carried across six columns the heading "For European Man in the Year 2000". I am sure that the authors, who regard as a long way from the Big Cities, are not notably less civilised than our own. Whilst it is proper too harshly by the courts should be able to have his sentence reconsidered by another tribunal, there is a strong argument that the same right should exist for the prosecution. A sentence which is too harsh

The Commission has for many years resisted the orthodox policy of amalgamating small crofts to create larger units. In our view the small croft, providing a home and a part-time agricultural base, coupled with non-agricultural employment, makes a good deal of sense.

In our annual report for 1966 we wrote: "Crofting has a contribution to make to industry just as industry has a contribution to make to crofting. The progressive shortening of the working week, and the growing emphasis on shift work to keep plants fully engaged, contribute towards a successful marriage of crofting with industry which will see the pattern for the future in many parts of the Highlands. . . . We believe that the willingness of crofters to work in industry, combined with a desire to own their homes and cultivate or stock a piece of land which they regard as their own, and which, for practical purposes, is their own, gives us an opportunity in the Highlands of working towards a new form of industrial society which will be healthier and more stable than any community which is completely urbanised."

That remains the policy of the Commission and it is interesting to see that the authors of "Europe 2000", by implication, place crofting in the van rather than the rear-guard of European development. Yours, etc,
J. S. GRANT,
Chairman,
Crofters Commission,
4/6 Castle Wynd,
Inverness.

A European Brookings

From Mr Alexander King

Sir, I hope I am not too late to add something to the correspondence about a "European Brookings". The arguments for creating some such institution aimed at studying various aspects of the European future seem to me to be very strong. It seems, however, to have escaped attention so far that there already exists a careful study and design for such an institution; I refer to the *Europe Plus Thirty* report which was written at the request and expense of the European Commission by a team of which I was a member, and submitted in 1975. A version of this report, prepared by the director of the study, Lord Kinnear, was published the following year by the Cambridge University Press under the title *The Futures of Europe*.

The proposal was for a think tank of about 30 people, reporting to the Commission and Parliament and financed by the former. The Commission has decided to put this proposal aside for five years for reasons of cost, and has instead recommended that the Council of Ministers should allow

to add six people to one of the sections of its own bureaucracy.

There is no particular significance in the idea that Europe Plus Thirty should be financed solely by the Commission, i.e. the European taxpayer. It might just as well be supported partly by the European taxpayer (whether through the Commission or not) and partly by European non-governmental funds. What seems hard to justify with regard to this or any other scheme for the purpose, is the seeking of American money for something which Europe Plus Thirty should surely be able to pay for out of its own pocket.

The trouble about this matter is that people and institutions keep on discussing and reporting and nothing whatsoever is done. Unless there is some arcane objection, I suggest that Europe Plus Thirty should now be put into effect with European funding, mixed if desired. Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER KING, Chairman,
The International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study,
163 Rue de Grenelle,
75007 Paris.
December 18.

London rail links

From Lady Burton of Coventry

Sir, With reference to the letter from the Managing Director (Railways), London Transport, published today (December 25) on John Young's article: "Fast trains link Heathrow with West End", may I make the following points: (1) Congratulations to London Transport for the new underground link to be opened today by the Queen. (2) This will be excellent for business travellers, for staff at Heathrow and for passengers with hand baggage. Unfortunately no consideration has been given to those with baggage—going on holiday or returning—not forgetting our foreign visitors. (3) On April 2, 1973, I initiated a debate on this proposed Heathrow link having discussed the matter in detail with London Transport. I got no change whatever. (4) Unfortunately what I said

has now turned out to be correct. How on earth are travellers with luggage to get on to, or off Under- ground trains in central London? And particularly at busy times, I gather that there are to be no porters and that passengers are to be some trolleys at Heathrow station.

(5) Perhaps now, 4 years on, I might submit one practical suggestion. Gloucester Road Underground station is on the Piccadilly line (the link) and has a lift. Will London Transport improve/enlarge this lift; have porters available; site a taxi rank outside and publicize these arrangements? After all, people going on holiday do pay air fares. They are entitled to some consideration; they, too, would like to use this new link. Yours faithfully,
BURTON OF COVENTRY,
House of Lords.
December 15.

Farm production

From Professor Asher Winegarten

Sir, In your issue of December 21 Mr Cyril Coffin, Director General of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, is reported as having said there was "no evidence that UK farmers generally are likely to cut back production or need an increase in their incomes after the near-record harvest". Mr Coffin is sadly unaware of the true facts. Not only has our pig breeding herd been drastically cut in recent years, but the British beef and lamb herds are also being reduced. Beef production this year will be down by about 50,000 tonnes in 1977—and a further fall is in prospect next year. Milk output is up, but only because the weather this year has been kinder and yields have risen.

The uncertainties and lack of confidence in the whole of the livestock sector, with the possible exception of sheep, threaten the production base of British agriculture as a whole. Though we have had a

record cereals crop this year (in terms of quantity though not of quality), the effect will probably be no more than to bring our total production back to where it was in the early 1970s, i.e. the base period for the export subsidies in the Government's White Paper *Food From Our Own Resources*. So long as the green pound diverges widely from the market rate, and so long as Monetary Compensatory Amounts for pigmeat, beef and milk are calculated on an incorrect basis, British agriculture will continue to suffer from what we have described as "legalized dumping". I am sorry that Mr Coffin evidently favours the perpetuation of this state of affairs for the primary producer. This surely cannot be in the interests of most of his members. Yours faithfully,
ASHER WINEGARTEN,
Deputy Director General,
The National Farmers' Union,
Agriculture House,
Knightsbridge, SW1.
December 21.

S Africans against apartheid

From Mr C. D. Hoare

Sir, The cancellation of the rugby match between Dulwich College and Diocesan College, Cape Town because of threatened demonstrations by anti-apartheid supporters has caused reactions here ranging from disappointment to downright anger. This in no way implies criticism of the headmaster of Dulwich who, before calling off the game in the interests of public order, discussed the matter by telephone with the head of Diocesan College (himself a former Dulwich boy who subsequently taught at the school prior to taking over at "Bishops", as it is more popularly known through our Southern Africa).

According to newspaper reports opposition to the match was led over all by three Anglican bishops. Members of Parliament from South London and Mr Paul Stephenson of the National Sports Council. All leaders of public opinion whom one would hope would have done their homework before calling for support on such an emotive issue. But did they? Were they, for example, aware that Bishops, founded in the middle of the last century by a lady, the Anglican church, was modelled on Radley whence came its first headmaster; that it is still an Anglican church school dedicated to the cause of freedom and justice for all; that it would add to Coteur's Black and African pupils tomorrow if it were legally possible; but it does everything permissible within the law to practise Christian principles, particularly as regards the attitude towards the non-White community; that it gave up its government grant some years ago rather than submit to the dictates of the state educational system?

Bishops has a record of achievement in many fields of which it may be justly proud. It has produced two soldiers, statesmen, academics and leaders in all walks of life. Its sons have fought and died for Britain in two world wars, the Boer War and numerous campaigns of the last century. On the field of sport it has produced many stars. Who can ever forget the achievements of Tuppy Owen-Smith and Clive Wynne-Paige to name but two? There are many others.

But in spite of all the facts the bishops, MPs, the representatives of the National Sports Council and all their fellow travellers have seen fit to vent their political spleen on boys from a school fighting for the same Christian principles that they themselves profess to hold. What has happened to that British sense of fair play that was so rightly admired and respected around the world? And why pick on schoolboys? Hardly cricket, is it?

Let it be thought that I am surreptitiously putting forward a defence of apartheid, let me say that I abhor it. I am now a South African having spent exactly half my life here since emigrating from Britain in 1946. I do not support the Pretoria Government and am critical of much that they do. What saddens me is that every time an emotional issue such as the enforced cancellation of the Dulwich v Bishops match is reported here a few more disillusioned English-speaking South Africans defect to the Nationalists. In our recent general election opponents of the Government cast roughly 35 per cent of the votes. We are fighting against substantial odds already without having our difficulties compounded by the actions of uninformed though no doubt well-intentioned leaders of public opinion in Britain. Can they not realize, or is it that they will not, that all white South Africans do not subscribe to Pretoria's policies and that we are doing all we can within the law to bring about peaceful change?

Sporting tours overseas by boys from schools such as Bishops can do much to help to prepare the leaders of tomorrow for the task ahead of them. But one wonders what sort of impression the boys gain from an incident like the Dulwich affair. They should have encouragement, not discouragement. Or, if the opponents of apartheid in Britain really believe that all Englishmen wear bowler hats, and that all Americans chew gum, and that all Russians are communists, they should say so. Yours faithfully,
C. D. HOARE,
Havlock Cottage,
Hamover Road,
Diep River,
Cape Town 7800,
South Africa.
December 18.

Crossword clues

From Mr Edmund Akenhead
Sir, Now your crossword compilers are being quoted as on the side of the misguided. Mrs Dorothy Davenport in her letter which appeared today (Saturday) (December 17), claims that some years back she protested to your crossword compiler that Frankenstein was a Baron, not a monster, and that she received a reply that he was now a monster by popular usage.

Either Mr Davenport is speaking of a clue which appeared more than 12 years ago, though I find it difficult to believe that my predecessor would have been guilty of such a rudimentary error, or she is referring to a crossword other than *The Times* crossword. Not only have I never passed a clue which depicts Frankenstein as a monster, but if such an error occurred I should remember it to this day and I should never have shrugged off Mrs Davenport's complaint in the way she indicates. There are plenty of misconceptions to choose from. Many will say that it was DeLill who cut off Samson's hair, and many will refer to the mystery ship as the Marie Celeste (it was in fact the Mary Celeste). All are traps for crossword compilers, which we seek to avoid.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND AKENHEAD, Crossword Editor,
The Old House,
South Newton,
Salisbury.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will visit New Zealand in May.

A memorial service for Major-General Sir James Bland will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at noon on Wednesday, January 11.

Birthdays today

Sir Henry Bland, 68; Sir Andrew Maitland-Maitland-Crichton, 67; Sir Bayard Dill, 72; Mr T. W. Gould, VC, 63; Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, 45; Lieutenant-General Sir George Lea, 65; Sir Walter Puckey, 78; Lord Salmon, 74.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. E. A. Troup and Miss S. J. Martin. The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony and Lady Troup, and Miss S. J. Martin, daughter of Colonel and Mrs John Martin, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr D. G. Craft and Miss E. M. C. Beardsworth. The engagement is announced between David George, son of Mr and Mrs D. G. Craft, and Miss E. M. C. Beardsworth, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. A. Beardsworth, of Ruislip, Middlesex.

Lieutenant S. Cussons, RN and Miss M. Searle. The engagement is announced between Stephen Cussons, RN, son of Mr and Mrs S. A. Cussons, of 28 Ruffield, Epsom, Surrey, and Miss M. Searle, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Searle, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr P. D. Jones and Miss E. M. B. Russell. The engagement is announced between Philip David, son of Mr and Mrs P. D. Jones, of 10, Elmwood, Weybridge, Surrey, and Miss E. M. B. Russell, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. B. Russell, of Christchurch, Dorset.

Mr M. C. B. Moquette and Miss A. J. Hadfield. The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Henri M. Moquette, of Little Orchard, Underhill Drive, St Lawrence, Kent, and Miss A. J. Hadfield, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Hadfield, of 22 Abbey Lodge, Park Road, London, NW8.

Mr P. R. Sebag-Montefiore and Miss C. Pomeroy. The engagement is announced between Patrick Sebag-Montefiore, of 20 Townsend Court, St John's Wood, NW8, son of the late Mr and Mrs John Sebag-Montefiore, and Miss C. Pomeroy, of 10, Clarendon Gardens, Little Venice, W9, only daughter of Mr Thomas Hoffmeyer, and stepdaughter of Thomas Hoffmeyer, of St John's Wood, NW8.

Mr M. Vennell and Miss A. Bunge. The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs L. J. Vennell, of 10, Clarendon Gardens, Little Venice, W9, and Miss A. Bunge, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Bunge, of Cranbrook, Kent.

Colonel A. C. Noel and Miss A. D. Duncanson. The marriage took place quietly on December 22, at the Little Oratory, London, between Colonel Archibald Noel and Miss Anne Duncanson, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Duncanson, of Cranbrook, Kent.

\$50,000 winner
The weekly \$50,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, was won by 3 VS 053783. The winner lives in Kent.

The 25 £1,000 winners are:
2 DL 66212 58X 104183
3 DL 71733 58X 104183
10 LL 78848 58X 104183
10 LL 78848 58X 104183
10 LL 78848 58X 104183
10 LL 78848 58X 104183
10 LL 78848 58X 104183
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Today's engagements
Westminster Abbey: Carol Serres and Philip Serres. The wedding will be held in the Westminster Abbey, London, at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, January 1, 1978.

University news
Oxford: The Rev James Barr, MA, BD, Oriel Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture, has been appointed Regius Professor of Hebrew in succession to Professor William McHardy, who is to retire in September.

Church news
Diocese of Salisbury: The Very Rev W. F. Morley to be elected Bishop of Salisbury. The election will be held on January 1, 1978.

Latest appointments
Latest appointments include: Mr Brian Jones, deputy editor of The Guardian; Mr J. M. Bunge, of Cranbrook, Kent.

Appointments in the Forces
Royal Navy: Mr J. A. Bell, Director of Naval Education Services in command of the Royal Naval School of Maritime Studies, will be promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral on January 1, 1978.

Spirit of reconciliation praised by the Queen

The Queen said in her Christmas message that her wish for reconciliation was "not an impossible dream".

In the shortest Christmas message ever broadcast, only four minutes and 50 seconds long, she told millions listening to radio and watching television in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth:

Last Christmas I said my wish for 1977 was that it should be a year of reconciliation. You have shown by the way in which you have celebrated the Jubilee that this was not an impossible dream. Thank you all for your response.

The Queen delivered her message from the ground-floor Regency room at Buckingham Palace, and for the first time Christmas cards from well-wishers at home and abroad surrounded her. The text of her speech was as follows:

I shall never forget the scene of jubilation and goodwill which was the Christmas of 1976. The cheerful crowd was symbolic of the hundreds of thousands of people who greeted us wherever we went in this Jubilee year, in 12 Commonwealth countries and 36 counties in the United Kingdom.

But I believe it also revealed to the world that we can be a united people. It showed that all the people of the world can be united in a common purpose. The Jubilee year has shown that we can be a united people. It showed that all the people of the world can be united in a common purpose.

He wondered what would have happened to the Church if the first Christian disciples had given way to such intimidation, but they would have none of it.

"A handful of men and women, mostly uneducated, mostly poor, but strong in the Lord and in the power of his might, men of the Resurrection,"

men of the spirit, went out into the pagan world and won for Christ. Let them shame our faithlessness! Let them be our example!"

One of the main weapons used by the enemy was that which spread defeatism, depression and despair. "In the spiritual warfare, it corresponds to the use of gas in the First World War. Too many whiffs of this stuff, and the Christian soldier crumples," he said.

He praised the work and Christian courage and commitment of the small group of women who started the Peace Movement in Northern Ireland and with a Nobel Prize. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who exposed the atrocities of atheistic communism; and Dr Beyers Naude, Theo Koze and the Christian Institute, which exposed the tyranny of racism in South Africa.

Dr Coggan deplores 'death wish' on church attendance

Britain would soon be very different if people gave God a chance, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, said in his Christmas Day sermon in Canterbury Cathedral.

He criticized the "almost satirical figure" of the "not always accurate" decline in church attendance. "I sometimes wonder whether I can detect a death wish in the way these figures are used," he said.

He wondered what would have happened to the Church if the first Christian disciples had given way to such intimidation, but they would have none of it.

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OBITUARY

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Comic genius of the cinema screen

Sir Charles Chaplin, KBE, Charlie Chaplin, the comedian, died on Christmas Day. He was 88.

He was the last survivor from among the founding fathers of the American cinema, one of the greatest comic creators in film, and achieved greater, more widespread fame in his own lifetime than perhaps any actor in the history of mankind. He was the darling of the intellectuals, who loved to theorize on the significance of his comedy, its social responsibility, its relation to the great tradition of commedia dell'arte and circus clowning, its anarchic force and vigour. But he also had to a unique degree the common touch—people of virtually any culture were able to respond with laughter to his screen antics, and for generations after generations of children he was the first introduction to the magic world of the cinema.

During the latter part of his long life, Chaplin, though loaded with honours and universally regarded as one of the unshakable monuments of the cinema (whatever controversy his political attitudes might arouse), did not suffer from a certain reaction to the excesses of his early admirers. This had something to do with a grudging but progressive disenchantment with his later films, and to do with the rediscovery and reevaluation of the work of his many rivals in silent comedy.

As with Chaplin's performances, so with his career as a filmmaker. He was a man who, in the face of poverty and adversity had become too much for her. Charles and his half-brother Sydney were therefore sent to an orphanage. This was a great shock to the sensitive child, and gave him a sense of insecurity which was to haunt him throughout his life.

He emerged from the orphanage in March, 1896, and became a waif of the London slums. His first stage appearance was made soon after the age of seven, when he performed a clog dance: three years later he was appearing in music-halls all over the country as "The Eight Little Dwarfs". Then, for a short time, he became a legitimate actor, and played Billy, the office boy, in *Sherlock Holmes*, and was also seen as one of the boys in the first production of *Peter Pan*.

When he was 17, Charles Chaplin joined Fred Karno's pantomime group, and in 1910 was taken as first comedian on the company's tour of America. In 1913 he was seen in New York by Mack Sennett, America's foremost producer of comedy films, playing a drunk in a sketch called *A Night in an English Music Hall*, and was taken on as a film comedian to replace Ford Sterling.

Chaplin was reluctant to leave Karno, and his early days in Hollywood only confirmed these doubts. His first film, in which he appeared in a stock cost and top hat, was a failure. Later he adopted the tramp costume of the beggar, and in 1915 he was seen in *The Tramp*, which was a success.

Chaplin made about 40 comedies for Sennett, then for the Essanay and the Mutual Companies, and in 1916 he went over to the Mutual Company after signing a contract for what was, in those days, an unheard-of salary.

But by now he was world famous, and was writing and directing his own films. More important still was the fact that the character of "the little fellow", as the tramp was always known to his creator, had become firmly established in his mind.

For Mutual Chaplin made some of his best short comedies, including *The Floorwalker*, *The Rink*, and *Easy Street*. In 1918 he joined First National, and for them made eight films, including *A Dog's Life* and *Shoulder Arms*. Then he built his own film studios and formed his own company, and in 1919 he joined with the other silent film-makers of the period—D. W. Griffith, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford—in forming the United Artists Corporation.

The 1920s were the golden age of the silent cinema, and Chaplin entered this golden age with his own power, authority, and complete freedom of his own work. To this period belong *The Kid* (1921) with Jackie Coogan, *The Gold Diggers of Paris* (1929) with Paulette Goddard, *The Circus* (1928) with Mervyn Kennedy. During this period he also started the film world by writing and directing a picture in which he did not himself appear, *A Woman of Paris* (1923), with Adolphe Menjou and Edna Purviance—an interesting and original work, but one that attempted a sophisticated elegance which was not really in Chaplin's province, and which Lubitsch was shortly to undertake with much more success in *The Marriage Circle*.

Up to this point in his career there was little room for controversy of any kind: his popularity was unchallenged, and even *A Woman of Paris* enjoyed a brilliant success. But from the beginning of the sound era things became more arguable. There were many, and are still, who regard *City Lights* (1931) as his finest film. But for others, the sentimental release of *Modern Times* (1936), which Chaplin had never considered one of his better films, came as a revelation when shown again in this new format. But from the beginning of the sound era things became more arguable.

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OBITUARY

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Comic genius of the cinema screen

Sir Charles Chaplin, KBE, Charlie Chaplin, the comedian, died on Christmas Day. He was 88.

He was the last survivor from among the founding fathers of the American cinema, one of the greatest comic creators in film, and achieved greater, more widespread fame in his own lifetime than perhaps any actor in the history of mankind. He was the darling of the intellectuals, who loved to theorize on the significance of his comedy, its social responsibility, its relation to the great tradition of commedia dell'arte and circus clowning, its anarchic force and vigour. But he also had to a unique degree the common touch—people of virtually any culture were able to respond with laughter to his screen antics, and for generations after generations of children he was the first introduction to the magic world of the cinema.

During the latter part of his long life, Chaplin, though loaded with honours and universally regarded as one of the unshakable monuments of the cinema (whatever controversy his political attitudes might arouse), did not suffer from a certain reaction to the excesses of his early admirers. This had something to do with a grudging but progressive disenchantment with his later films, and to do with the rediscovery and reevaluation of the work of his many rivals in silent comedy.

As with Chaplin's performances, so with his career as a filmmaker. He was a man who, in the face of poverty and adversity had become too much for her. Charles and his half-brother Sydney were therefore sent to an orphanage. This was a great shock to the sensitive child, and gave him a sense of insecurity which was to haunt him throughout his life.

He emerged from the orphanage in March, 1896, and became a waif of the London slums. His first stage appearance was made soon after the age of seven, when he performed a clog dance: three years later he was appearing in music-halls all over the country as "The Eight Little Dwarfs". Then, for a short time, he became a legitimate actor, and played Billy, the office boy, in *Sherlock Holmes*, and was also seen as one of the boys in the first production of *Peter Pan*.

When he was 17, Charles Chaplin joined Fred Karno's pantomime group, and in 1910 was taken as first comedian on the company's tour of America. In 1913 he was seen in New York by Mack Sennett, America's foremost producer of comedy films, playing a drunk in a sketch called *A Night in an English Music Hall*, and was taken on as a film comedian to replace Ford Sterling.

Chaplin was reluctant to leave Karno, and his early days in Hollywood only confirmed these doubts. His first film, in which he appeared in a stock cost and top hat, was a failure. Later he adopted the tramp costume of the beggar, and in 1915 he was seen in *The Tramp*, which was a success.

Chaplin made about 40 comedies for Sennett, then for the Essanay and the Mutual Companies, and in 1916 he went over to the Mutual Company after signing a contract for what was, in those days, an unheard-of salary.

But by now he was world famous, and was writing and directing his own films. More important still was the fact that the character of "the little fellow", as the tramp was always known to his creator, had become firmly established in his mind.

For Mutual Chaplin made some of his best short comedies, including *The Floorwalker*, *The Rink*, and *Easy Street*. In 1918 he joined First National, and for them made eight films, including *A Dog's Life* and *Shoulder Arms*. Then he built his own film studios and formed his own company, and in 1919 he joined with the other silent film-makers of the period—D. W. Griffith, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford—in forming the United Artists Corporation.

The 1920s were the golden age of the silent cinema, and Chaplin entered this golden age with his own power, authority, and complete freedom of his own work. To this period belong *The Kid* (1921) with Jackie Coogan, *The Gold Diggers of Paris* (1929) with Paulette Goddard, *The Circus* (1928) with Mervyn Kennedy. During this period he also started the film world by writing and directing a picture in which he did not himself appear, *A Woman of Paris* (1923), with Adolphe Menjou and Edna Purviance—an interesting and original work, but one that attempted a sophisticated elegance which was not really in Chaplin's province, and which Lubitsch was shortly to undertake with much more success in *The Marriage Circle*.

Up to this point in his career there was little room for controversy of any kind: his popularity was unchallenged, and even *A Woman of Paris* enjoyed a brilliant success. But from the beginning of the sound era things became more arguable. There were many, and are still, who regard *City Lights* (1931) as his finest film. But for others, the sentimental release of *Modern Times* (1936), which Chaplin had never considered one of his better films, came as a revelation when shown again in this new format. But from the beginning of the sound era things became more arguable.

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OWARD
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Authorized Unit Trusts			Prev. Chgs	Current	Prev. Chgs	Current	Prev. Chgs	Current
Unit Price			Unit Price	Unit Price	Unit Price	Unit Price	Unit Price	Unit Price
1947-48			1947-48	1947-48	1947-48	1947-48	1947-48	1947-48
1948-49			1948-49	1948-49	1948-49	1948-49	1948-49	1948-49
1949-50			1949-50	1949-50	1949-50	1949-50	1949-50	1949-50
1950-51			1950-51	1950-51	1950-51	1950-51	1950-51	1950-51
1951-52			1951-52	1951-52	1951-52	1951-52	1951-52	1951-52
1952-53			1952-53	1952-53	1952-53	1952-53	1952-53	1952-53
1953-54			1953-54	1953-54	1953-54	1953-54	1953-54	1953-54
1954-55			1954-55	1954-55	1954-55	1954-55	1954-55	1954-55
1955-56			1955-56	1955-56	1955-56	1955-56	1955-56	1955-56
1956-57			1956-57	1956-57	1956-57	1956-57	1956-57	1956-57
1957-58			1957-58	1957-58	1957-58	1957-58	1957-58	1957-58
1958-59			1958-59	1958-59	1958-59	1958-59	1958-59	1958-59
1959-60			1959-60	1959-60	1959-60	1959-60	1959-60	1959-60
1960-61			1960-61	1960-61	1960-61	1960-61	1960-61	1960-61
1961-62			1961-62	1961-62	1961-62	1961-62	1961-62	1961-62
1962-63			1962-63	1962-63	1962-63	1962-63	1962-63	1962-63
1963-64			1963-64	1963-64	1963-64	1963-64	1963-64	1963-64
1964-65			1964-65	1964-65	1964-65	1964-65	1964-65	1964-65
1965-66			1965-66	1965-66	1965-66	1965-66	1965-66	1965-66
1966-67			1966-67	1966-67	1966-67	1966-67	1966-67	1966-67
1967-68			1967-68	1967-68	1967-68	1967-68	1967-68	1967-68
1968-69			1968-69	1968-69	1968-69	1968-69	1968-69	1968-69
1969-70			1969-70	1969-70	1969-70	1969-70	1969-70	1969-70
1970-71			1970-71	1970-71	1970-71	1970-71	1970-71	1970-71
1971-72			1971-72	1971-72	1971-72	1971-72	1971-72	1971-72
1972-73			1972-73	1972-73	1972-73	1972-73	1972-73	1972-73
1973-74			1973-74	1973-74	1973-74	1973-74	1973-74	1973-74
1974-75			1974-75	1974-75	1974-75	1974-75	1974-75	1974-75
1975-76			1975-76	1975-76	1975-76	1975-76	1975-76	1975-76
1976-77			1976-77	1976-77	1976-77	1976-77	1976-77	1976-77
1977-78			1977-78	1977-78	1977-78	1977-78	1977-78	1977-78
1978-79			1978-79	1978-79	1978-79	1978-79	1978-79	1978-79
1979-80			1979-80	1979-80	1979-80	1979-80	1979-80	1979-80
1980-81			1980-81	1980-81	1980-	1980-	1980-	1980-

S Osborn looking to independent future

Of the November total, bond issues accounted for 5,700m francs, up from 5,400m a year before. Over the first 11 months of this year, Credit Lyonnais said, new issues amounted to 57,100m francs, an increase of 18 per cent on the year-earlier total.

Briefly

LEP GROUP
During second half trading, conditions have worsened for most of overseas companies but year's profits are expected to at least equal record £3.5m for whole of

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During second half trading, conditions have worsened for most of overseas companies but year profits are expected to at least equal record £3.5m for whole of 1976.

D. M. LANCASTER OBJECTIVE
Board plans to secure arrangements for future profitable development of company. It "healthy level of liquidity" will be of assistance in achieving objective.

NORTH MIDLAND CONSTR
Group loss of 42,000 (profit 592,000). Board says that loss is due to prolonged bad weather. Severe cut-back in Post Office expenditure and a drastic fall in the work load.

APV HOLDINGS
APV Holdings and Holvriks Holding of Holland are looking for a closer cooperation in the future and as a result APV will take up a 30 per cent shareholding in Holvriks.

EMRAY GROUP
Board expects profits for the second half to continue at a similar rate to those first reported. Prospects for 1978 can be considered as unchanged.

Bridport-Gundry
Group looking for progress
against background of textile
industry recession. Board remains
reasonably optimistic about
trading prospects.

AMAL INN & PROPERTY
Liquidator of Amalgamated Investment & Property does not expect total dividend to creditors will exceed 50p in the pound. It may be "substantially less".

HAWTIN
 Bidder of this protective clothing
 maker say that three years of
 pref. arrears, or 15.925p to be
 paid on January 3.

Results this week

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Board meetings this week include:

TODAY—Interims—Ailsa Inver Tst, Kamunting Tin and Southern Kinta Cons. Finals—Southern Malayan Tin.

TOMORROW — Interims — Barroo Tea Hldgs, Midland Educational, Wilkiss & Mitchell and Philip Harris. Finals—No meetings yet announced.

FRIDAY—Interims—Brit Cinea matograph Theatres and S. Hoffmann & Co. Finals—Phoenix Mining & Finance.

21

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	71 1/2
Barclays Bank	71 1/2
Consolidated Crdts	71 1/2
First London Secs	71 1/2
C. Hoare & Co	*70 1/2
Lloyds Bank	70 1/2
London Mercantile	70 1/2
Midland Bank	61 1/2
Nat Westminster	71 1/2
Rossminster Acc's	71 1/2
Shenley Trust	91 1/2
TSB	71 1/2
Williams and Glyn's	71 1/2

* 7 day deposits & sums of £10,000 and under

\$25,000 5% \$1,250 over

CHARTER CONSOLIDATED
LIMITED
LONDON TIN GROUP—

APPOINTMENT AS REGISTRARS
Charter Consolidated Limited
 (Charter has the pleasure in appointing
 registrars in the United Kingdom,
 in place of Lloyd's Blank Limited, to
 the following companies —
 Aikman Tin Mines of Nigeria
 Akkem Tin Berhad
 Tongkah Harbour Tin Drudging
 (Siam) Limited

All correspondence and forms of
 transfer relating to shareholdings
 in the above-named companies
 should be addressed to Charter at
 No. 102, Charter House, Park
 Square, London, E.C. 4.

Further announcement(s) will be
 made when Charter assumes
 responsibility for share registration
 in the United Kingdom of the other
 companies in the London Tin Group.

Registered office: —
 102, Charter House, Park
 Square, London, EC1P 1AJ.

21 December 1977.

Co. Limited

Counter Market

	Lat Price	Ch'ge	Cross Div'ts	Yld %	P/E
	—	—	4.2	10.0	7.8
CULS	148	—	18.4	12.5	—
ies	36	—	9.3	9.2	15.3
	143	—	12.0	8.4	9.8
	99	—	5.1	5.2	8.0
ULS	271	—	17.5	8.0	—
	143	—	11.5	8.0	6.9
	30	—	5.0	10.0	5.9
	109	+1	6.0	5.5	10.0
	312	—	27.0	8.6	5.3
	74	—	—	—	—
	72	—	12.0	16.7	—
S	70	—	7.0	10.0	8.7
	86	—	6.4	7.4	6.4

Wall Street

Debenham 0% Lns '82-83	60	80
Do 6% Lns '86-91	62	63
Do 7% Lns 2002-07	62	61
Distillers 7% Lns '88-93	70	68
Dunlop 6% Deb '85-90	71	71

	Dec 27	Dec 28
2.211	2.200	2.185

Do 74	85-00	73	71
Truman Ltd 74	Dec		
'88-93	..	72	72
Type Investment	9 Ln		
'89-94	..	76	76

Dec 27	Dec 23	Dec 27	Dec 23
101	101	101	101

70	31	Unilock Holdings
87	65	Walter Alexander

ments for future profitable development of company. It "healthy level of liquidity" will

70	—	7.0	10.0	8.7
86	—	6.4	7.4	6.4

[illegible]



To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel: PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY 01-837 3311 APPOINTMENTS 01-278 9161 PROPERTY ESTATE AGENTS 01-278 9231 PERSONAL TRADE 01-278 9351 MANCHESTER OFFICE 061-834 1234

Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations, tel: Classified Queries Dept 01-837 1234, Ext 7180

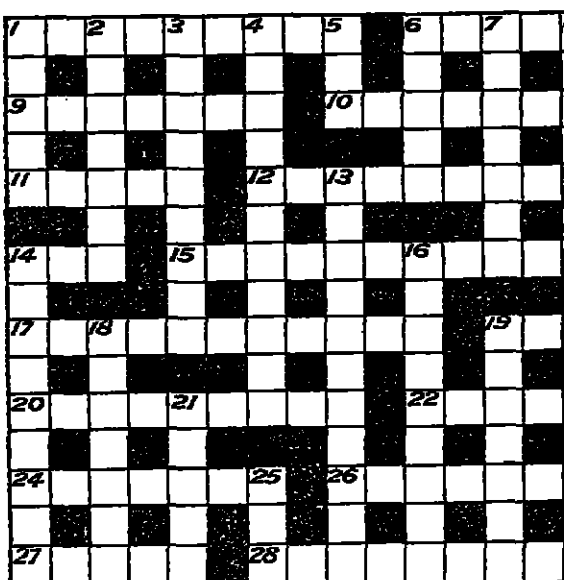
Deadlines for cancellations and alterations to ads (except for classified advertisements) are 12 noon on the day of publication. On the day of publication, the deadline is 12 noon. Step Number will be issued to the advertiser. Subsequent alterations regarding the classified advertisements must be made by 12 noon on the day of publication. Please check your ad. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day, mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to The Classified Department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

Let us now be over into the classified department. We will be glad to place your ad. Tel: 01-837 1234.

BIRTHS
ANDERSON—On Christmas Eve, at Carlton Lodge, Harrogate, to Ian and Susan (née Rose-Woodward) a son.
MARRIOTT—On Christmas morning, at 10, Green Lane, Harrogate, to Mr and Mrs J. M. Marriott, a son, James John Marriott.
MARTIN—On December 21st, at 11, North Street, Harrogate, to Mr and Mrs J. Martin, a son, James John Martin.
SHRIMPTON—On December 19th, at 10, Green Lane, Harrogate, to Mr and Mrs J. Shrimpton, a son, James John Shrimpton.
SOUTHWICK—On Christmas Day, at 10, Green Lane, Harrogate, to Mr and Mrs J. Southwick, a son, James John Southwick.

DEATHS
ASHDOWN—On December 26, at 10, Green Lane, Harrogate, to Mr and Mrs J. Ashdown, a son, James John Ashdown.
BOLTON—On December 26, at 10, Green Lane, Harrogate, to Mr and Mrs J. Bolton, a son, James John Bolton.
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,794



ACROSS
1 A drug, effective as the camellion hump cure (9).
6 Hasten to reduce it (5).
9 Robert's spanners (7).
10 Unique quality—no sense destroying it (7).
11 He gives us the bird (5).
12 This to Stentor would be coals to Newcastle (9).
14 Involved in a row in the boardroom (3).
15 Principals in Wagnerian operas (7).
17 Sanction of the sort men need, perhaps (11).
18 Rightabout turn, chum (3).
20 They are continually on point duty (9).
22 Cause a dental strike (5).
23 In many places a king made her crues (7).
26 This literary gentleman gets no ray (7).
27 Jobs for sentries (5).
28 It's trapped before it starts (9).

DOWN
1 She needs no tree, when made from it (5).
2 Vessel with no storage accommodation (7).
3 Matrimonial record-maker (9).
4 Smilet mistook Polonius for one of these tradesmen (11).

When the power cuts get to their worst

We would all go to bed, if we durst, For there are two delights Which are great without lights— Famous Grouse is the one to try first.

LIMERICKS
about
FAMOUS GROUSE WHISKY
The above limerick submitted by Lord Birkett was adjudged best of all by the Famous Grouse judging panel under the Chairmanship of the well-known personality Mr. Denis Norden.
Lord Birkett has been awarded the prize of a week's holiday for two at the Glenagles Hotel, Perthshire.

Are you a Times regular?

The Times "Business to Retail" column runs every day, giving you the latest news on the main day throughout the week. It's a must for anyone who's serious about their business. For details of this and other features, ring: SUE NICHOLS ON 01-837 3311 NOW

Do you have a Business for Sale?

On Tuesday, January 21st, 1978, we will be holding a special "Business for Sale" session. For details of this and other features, ring: SUE NICHOLS ON 01-837 3311 NOW

WE ARE AMUSED!

IDEAL FAMILY HOME
S.W.17 Victorian semi-detached house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, close to schools and transport. Price £125,000. Tel: 01-837 3311

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